This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

**Usage guidelines**

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

**About Google Book Search**

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

US 13102.[illegible]A

HARVARD COLLEGE
LIBRARY

THE BEQUEST OF
WALTER FAXON
CLASS OF 1871

US 13102.[illegible]A

Walter Faxon.

A

# HISTORY

OF

# THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE,

MASSACHUSETTS;

## IN TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST BEING A

GENERAL VIEW OF THE COUNTY;

THE SECOND, AN

ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL TOWNS.

---

BY GENTLEMEN IN THE COUNTY,
CLERGYMEN AND LAYMEN.

---

PITTSFIELD:
PRINTED BY SAMUEL W. BUSH.

1829.

US 13102.29

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
THE BEQUEST OF
WALTER FAXON
MARCH 16, 1921

*DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, To wit:*
DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE.

L. S. BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-third day of April, A. D. 1829, in the fifty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America, David D. Field, of the said District, has deposited in this Office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit:—"A History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts; in Two Parts The first being a General View of the County; the second, an Account of the several Towns. By Gentlemen in the County, Clergymen and Laymen."—In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also to an act entitled "An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, an Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS,
*Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.*

# PREFACE.

The History of Berkshire owes its existence to the following votes of the Berkshire Association of Congregational Ministers, passed at their session in Stockbridge, June 13th, 1826:

"1st. That we will adopt measures to secure the writing, and as soon as circumstances shall permit; the printing *and* circulation, of a History of the County; which shall embrace an account of every thing important in it, whether natural or artificial, civil, literary, or religious:—more particularly, which shall embrace an account of the settlement of the several Towns; the formation of Parishes and Churches; the settlement, dismission and death of Ministers; revivals of religion, and sketches of the lives of eminent men.

2d. That Rev. Mr. Field be requested to collect and prepare the materials for said History."

At the time these votes were passed, it was designed to apply to Prof. Dewey to write the Natural History of the County. He has done more. The part to which his name is prefixed, is written by him, with the exception of the paragraphs which respect the early settlement of the County, the Aboriginal inhabitants, the Revolutionary War, Shays' Insurrection, the Courts, revivals of religion, and most of the Tables. These have been supplied by the Committee, according to an early understanding between the Professor and him.

The Clergymen belonging to the Association were expected to write the history of their own Towns, and in some instances, of adjoining Towns, where no Ministers were settled; or at least to supply the Committee with facts, from which he might compile a history. They have written what is ascribed to them, except that in some cases facts are inserted which they had omitted. In a few instances, facts are erased which had been more appropriately introduced in other parts of the work; and in others, statements, found to be erroneus, are corrected. The same liberty has been taken with the manuscripts furnished by Laymen. In general, however, the histories of the towns appear, both as to "matter and form," as they were written by the authors.

For the facts concerning Cheshire, the Committee is indebted principally to the Rev. HENRY B. HOOKER, and JONATHAN RICHARDSON, Esq; for those concerning Savoy, to Elder BENJAMIN F. REMINGTON, and SNELLEM BABBITT, Esq.; and for those concerning Florida, to JESSE J. KING, Esq. and Deacon ROBERT FIFE. Several persons have furnished him with facts concerning New Ashford. ISRAEL JONES, Esq., of Adams, has been particularly kind in collecting and communicating facts concerning several towns in the north part of the County.

To all these gentlemen, and to all others, who have assisted him in any way in preparing this work for the press, the Committee takes this opportunity to return his warmest thanks.

In arranging the Towns, the *general* order of their settlement has been followed. Where one town originally included several, the original town, and the towns formed out of it, are of course given in connection.

A

# HISTORY

OF

# THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

## PART I.

CONTAINING A

## GENERAL VIEW OF THE COUNTY.

---

BY REV. CHESTER DEWEY,

Late Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy in Williams College, and now Principal in the Berkshire Gymnasium.

# HISTORY OF BERKSHIRE.

## GENERAL VIEW OF THE COUNTY.

### *Situation, Extent, &c.*

The County of Berkshire is the western part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and extends across the State from North to South. It belonged originally to the County of Hampshire, or to what was long familiarly designated as the *Old County of Hampshire*, until its division in 1811–12, into three counties, *Franklin* on the north, *Hampshire* in the middle, and *Hampden* in the south. It was separated and made a distinct county, by an act of the Provincial Legislature of Massachusetts, passed at their session in May, 1761, in the first year of the reign of George the Third. At that time there were but four incorporated towns in the County, viz. Sheffield, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, and Egremont; and but six plantations, viz. Pontoosuck, now Pittsfield; New Framingham, now Lanesborough; West Hoosic, now Williamstown; No. 1, now Tyringham; No. 3, now Sandisfield, and No. 4, now Becket. The limits of the County, as given in the act, were as follows, viz. "Beginning at the western line of *Granville*, where it touches the Connecticut line, to run northerly as far as said west line of Granville runs, then easterly to the southwest corner of *Blanford*, and to run by the west line of the same town, to the north-western corner thereof; from thence northerly in a direct line to the south-east corner of No. 4, and so running by the easterly line of No. 4, to the north-east corner thereof; and thence in a direct course to the south-west corner of *Charlemont*, and so northerly in the west line of the

same town, till it comes to the north bound of the province, and northerly on the line between this province and the province of New Hampshire, [now Vermont, New Hampshire being considered at that time as running as far west as Massachusetts,] and on the west by the utmost limits of this province." The lands within these limits, with the inhabitants thereon, it was enacted, should be, after the 30th of June, 1761, one entire county, by the name of Berkshire. This name was probably taken from the county of Berkshire, or Berks, a pleasant and important inland county in England, to the west of London.

There are now in the County, thirty towns, and three tracts of unincorporated land. The towns are Sheffield, Egremont, Mount Washington, Great Barrington, Alford, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Tyringham, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, Becket, Otis, Richmond, Lenox, Pittsfield, Dalton, Washington, Lee, Lanesborough, Cheshire, New Ashford, Williamstown, Hancock, Peru, Windsor, Hinsdale, Adams, Savoy, Clarksburg, and Florida. The unincorporated tracts are *Boston Corner*, on the south-west corner of the County, thus called, because it is the south-west corner of *Boston State*, as Massachusetts is sometimes called; the *Gore*, a tract west of Williamstown, in the form of a triangle, being about three and an half miles long, and one in breadth at the base, on Hancock line; and *Zoar*, a broken tract lying east of Florida, and principally east of Deerfield river.

At the time of the formation of the County, the line was not definitely settled between Massachusetts and New York. It remained many years afterwards, as it had been many before, a subject of discussion and dispute between the governments and the inhabitants, and the cause of much anxiety and trouble. The Dutch Patentees laid claim to lands as far eastward as the Housatonic. When the line was run and finally established in 1787, by the Rev. Dr. Ewing and Dr. Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, and Thomas Hutchins, Esq., Commissioners appointed by Congress, at the request of the States of Massachusetts and New York, to perform this business, it threw a considerable portion of the town of Hancock into the State of New York; but

it left a gore against West Stockbridge and Alford, which was attached to Berkshire, and subsequently annexed to those towns.

The eastern boundary has also been the subject of some alterations. In 1783, "the north-east corner of Becket, the south side of Partridgefield, [now Peru] a part of Washington, and the land called Prescotts' Grants, all in the County of Berkshire," with some lands in Worthington and Chester, in the county of Hampshire, were incorporated into a town by the name of Middlefield, and the whole was annexed to the county of Hampshire. Some years since, a strip of land was taken from Cummington and Plainfield, in Hampshire county, and added to Windsor, in this county. In 1793, a portion of the plantation, designated No. 7, now Hawley, lying within the limits of Berkshire, was annexed to that town, and to the county of Hampshire. In 1822, a gore of land in the north-east corner of this county, was incorporated, with so much of the town of Rowe in the adjoining county, as lies west of Deerfield river, into a town by the name of Monroe, and the whole was annexed to the county of Franklin. The tract taken from Berkshire, begins on the north line of Florida, 600 rods from its north-west corner, and runs thence N. 10 deg. E. 880 rods, to the line of Vermont, and comprises all the land north of Florida, east of this northern line.

By these various alterations, the County of Berkshire has been in a small degree diminished.

It lies between Lat. 42 deg. 2 min. and 42 deg. 44 min. N. The Latitude of the south-west corner of the County and State is 42 deg. 3 min. N., according to the Report of the Survey of the Boundary Line between this State and that of New York, made by Thomas Hutchins, Esq. in 1787. The Longitude of the north-west corner of the County and State is very nearly 73 deg. 23 min. W.; that of the south-west corner is a little greater. The length of the west line of the County is stated in the above Report to be "fifty miles, forty-one chains, and seventy-nine links." It is considered to be a straight line in the Report, and its course is given N. 15 deg. 12 min. 9 sec. E., the variation of the needle being at the time of the survey, (July, 1787) 5

deg. 3 min. W. This line, as already intimated, is the present boundary between the States of Massachusetts and New York.

The breadth of the County, along the line of Bennington county, in Vermont, is about fourteen miles; and along the line of Litchfield county, in Connecticut, about twenty-four miles. The eastern bonndary is irregular, following the western boundary lines of the adjoining towns in the counties of Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin. Several miles north of the south line, the breadth is about twenty-six miles, and across the middle about sixteen miles. The area of the County is about 950 square miles, or 608,000 square acres.

SETTLEMENT.—Berkshire was settled later than any other county in the Commonwealth; and the fact, already mentioned, that the boundary line between Massachusetts and New York was not definitely fixed, probably delayed the settlement. People were afraid, if they planted themselves on the Housatonic, they should be molested in their possessions. The Dutch, who had settled along the Hudson, and were expected to spread themselves eastward, were viewed at that time with prejudice, and were not desired as neighbors. Besides, the County was somewhat remote from other English settlements, was difficult of access, and while nearly the whole was covered with thick and almost impenetrable forests, large portions of it were broken and mountainous. In addition to these circumstances, serious fears were entertained by the English, if the Indians in the County could be kept in quietness, that incursions would be made into it by the Indians and French from Canada, coming down the waters of Lake Champlain and the Hudson, and then following the course of the Hoosic; that their habitations would be exposed to conflagration, and their persons to the tomahawk and scalping knife. At length, however, incipient measures were taken to settle two townships on the Housatonic, comprehending at this time the whole south-western section of the County. These settlements rendered it necessary that a road should be opened from Westfield, over the range of the Green Mountains to Sheffield. This circumstance led to the location and settlement of

the towns in the south-eastern section of the County. Sales of land also were made by the Legislature from time to time, and grants to companies and individuals, to compensate them for losses which they had sustained, or to reward them for labors which they had performed, while in the public service. These purchasers and grantees became interested, of course, in making settlements. The early erection of Fort Massachusetts on the Hoosic, in Adams, and the subsequent erection of smaller and temporary fortifications southward to the line of Connecticut, served to bring the lands in Berkshire into notice. The passage of large bodies of troops through the County, in the French wars, had the same effect, and tended to promote the settlement of them, after the close of those wars. Before the first French war, which was declared in 1744, there were but few settlers in Berkshire. After that, and before the commencement of the second French war, which actually began in 1754, but was not formally declared till 1756, the settlers had considerably increased. After the close of this war in 1763, settlements advanced rapidly until the war of the Revolution. Since that time, the population has for the most part gradually, though until within a few years, slowly increased, by reason of the almost constant emigration to Vermont, New York, and other portions of our country. The succession of cold summers and unfruitful seasons, ending with 1816, frightened many, who fled to the west, dreaming of perpetual sunshine and unfailing plenty.

The early settlers of Berkshire, with the exception of some families in a few of the south-western towns, were almost wholly of English extraction. They came from the middle and eastern parts of Massachusetts, from Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The following Table will show when the several towns in the County were first settled by the English, so far as has been ascertained, the time when they were incorprated, and the number of inhabitants, according to the census of the United States, in 1791, 1800, 1810 and 1820.

| Names. | Settled. | Incor | 1791 | 1800 | 1810 | 1820 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sheffield, | 1725 | 1733 | 1899 | 2050 | 2439 | 2476 |
| Egremont, | ab't 1730 | 1760 | 759 | 835 | 790 | 865 |
| Mount Washington, | 1753 or 4 | 1779 | 67 | 291 | 474 | 467 |
| Great Barrington, | ab't 1730 | 1761 | 1373 | 1754 | 1784 | 1908 |
| Alford, | ab't 1740 | 1773 | 577 | 518 | 522 | 570 |
| Stockbridge, | 1734–36 | 1739 | 1336 | 1261 | 1372 | 1377 |
| West Stockbridge, | 1766 | 1774 | 1113 | 1002 | 1049 | 1034 |
| Tyringham, | 1739 | 1762 | 1397 | 1712 | 1680 | 1443 |
| New Marlborough, | 1739 | 1759 | | 1848 | 1822 | 1668 |
| Sandisfield, | 1750 | 1762 | 1581 | 1857 | 1795 | 1646 |
| Becket, | 1755 | 1765 | 751 | 930 | 1028 | 984 |
| Otis, | 1750–60 | 1773 | 605 | 1102 | 1111 | 981 |
| Richmond, | 1760 | 1765 | 1255 | 1044 | 1041 | 923 |
| Lenox, | 1750 | 1767 | 1169 | 1041 | 1310 | 1315 |
| Pittsfield, | 1752 | 1761 | 1992 | 2261 | 2665 | 2768 |
| Dalton, | ab't 1755 | 1784 | 554 | 859 | 779 | 817 |
| Washington, | 1760 | 1777 | 588 | 914 | 942 | 750 |
| Lee, | 1760 | 1777 | 1170 | 1267 | 1305 | 1384 |
| Lanesborough, | 1754–59 | 1765 | 2142 | 1443 | 1303 | 1319 |
| Cheshire, | 1767 | 1793 | | 1325 | 1315 | 1202 |
| New Ashford, | ab't 1762 | 1801 | | 390 | 411 | 358 |
| Williamstown, | 1751 or 2 | 1765 | 1769 | 2086 | 1843 | 2010 |
| Hancock, | 1762 | 1776 | 1211 | 1187 | 1049 | 1165 |
| Peru, | 1764 | 1771 | 1041 | 1361 | 912 | 748 |
| Windsor, | ab't 1767 | 1771 | 916 | 961 | 1108 | 1085 |
| Hinsdale, | 1762 or 3 | 1804 | | | 822 | 822 |
| Adams, | ab't 1764 | 1778 | 2040 | 1688 | 1763 | 1836 |
| Savoy, | 1777 | 1797 | | 430 | 711 | 852 |
| Clarksburg, | 1769 | 1798 | | 253 | 231 | 274 |
| Florida, | ab't 1783 | 1805 | | | 392 | 431 |
| *Boston Corner, | | | | | | |
| *Gore, | | | | | | 92 |
| *Zoar, | | | 78 | 215 | | 150 |
| | | | 30291 | 33885 | 35799 | 35720 |

* Unincorporated Tracts.

The number of inhabitants to a square mile was, in 1791 (omitting fractions) 31; in 1800, 35; in 1810, 37; and in 1820, 37. The number may now be 42.

NOTE.—The census of the towns and unincorporated tracts, in some instances is incomplete, and of course footings could not be made, but the total is given as obtained from other sources.

The census has been taken "in diverse manners." The census of this County and State (exclusive of Maine) in 1791, here given for the sake of comparison, was as follows:

| | Towns. | Houses. | Families. | Free white males 16 years old & upwards | Free white males under 16 years | Free white females. | All other free persons. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| County, | 26 | 4476 | 4899 | 7366 | 7793 | 14809 | 323 | 39291 |
| State, | 265 | 54477 | 65779 | 94453 | 87289 | 190583 | 5436 | 378787 |

Proportion of the tax for 1792, assessed upon the several counties of the State, exclusive of Maine, by which (if the proportion be just) a judgment may be formed of the rateable property of each county.

| *Counties.* | *Representatives' pay.* | *Proportion of tax.* |
|---|---|---|
| Suffolk, including Norfolk, | $1648,00 | $12999,68 |
| Essex, . . . . . | 1539,00 | 12046,21 |
| Middlesex, . . . . . | 2111,00 | 9940,51 |
| Plymouth, . . . . . | 811,00 | 5470,35 |
| Bristol, . . . . . | 686,67 | 5223,08 |
| Barnstable, . . . . . | 251,00 | 1857,53 |
| Duke's County, . . . . | 54,00 | 539,78 |
| Nantucket, . . . . . | 102,00 | 564,18 |
| Worcester, . . . . . | 2388,00 | 11667,35 |
| Hampshire (Old) . . . | 1631,00 | 9062,00 |
| Berkshire, . . . . . | 1142,00 | 4768,50 |
| Total of the State, | $1283,67 | $74139,15 |

The following items are taken from a summary of the census in 1820:

| | Whites. | Colored persons | Total. | Foreign'rs n't naturalized. | Engaged in Agriculture. | Engaged in Commerce. | Engaged in Manufactures. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| County, | 34868 | 852 | 35720 | 94 | 7568 | 133 | 2019 |
| State, | 516419 | 6740 | 523287 | 3425 | 63460 | 13301 | 33464 |

The whole number of polls in the County in 1822 (by returns) was 8429
do. State do. 122715

Aggregate of rateable property in the County in 1822, $316671
do. State do. 9218656

Pay on $1000, including polls, at 1½ mill each $40; 68.

ABORIGINES.—When the English commenced their settlements in Berkshire, there were but few Indian families living within its limits, and most of these in Sheffield and Stockbridge. These were soon collected together, with others from the vicinity, into the latter town; where their friendship was effectually secured by the establishment of a Christian mission among them, and where they became very useful to the English, often acting as guides and as spies for them. Though the people in several towns were greatly disturbed by Indians from a distance, it is not known that they were in a single instance disturbed by members of this tribe. In the first French war, the Indians which came into the County, up the Hoosic river, and attacked Fort Massachusetts, in Adams, passed on to the settlements on the Connecticut, evidently avoiding the Stockbridge Indians, both because they had no hope of winning them over to their views, and because they might have successfully resisted them, had they been attacked, in the Indian mode of warfare. In the second French war, only a solitary incursion was made down as far as the centre of the County, and that by a few individuals. In this war, while a temporary suspicion rested upon the Stockbridge Indians, they soon repelled it, by tendering their services to the government of the Colony. In the war of the Revolution, many of them enlisted into the army, and some sacrificed their lives in the cause of our country.

Although the Indians were few when Berkshire began to be settled, they were acknowledged as the rightful owners of the soil; and measures were adopted by the Legislature of Massachusetts to effect the extinguishment of the Indian title. From deeds and other documents in the possession of some of the towns, it is certain that regular purchases were in most instances made, and the presumption is that they were made in all. The

consideration given was usually small; but there is no evidence it was not all the lands were worth at the time.

The tradition of the Stockbridge Indians is, that they were much more numerous originally, than they were when the English first came into the County. This is highly probable, though there is no proof of their having ever been very numerous. But by what means they were diminished, does not certainly appear. The successive wars carried on by the English against the Indian tribes in the eastern parts of New England, may have alarmed them, and induced many to flee to the west, where they mingled with other tribes. As early as the memorable war, called King Philip's war, (near the middle of August, 1675) about 200 fugitive Indians were observed to pass by Westfield, going on westward; "News thereof (says Hubbard in his Narrative of the Indian Wars) being brought to Major Talcot, he with the soldiers of Connecticut colony under his command, both Indians and English, pursued after them as far as Ausotunnoog [Housatonic] river, (in the middle way betwixt Westfield, and the Dutch river and Fort Albany) where he overtook them, and fought with them; killing and taking 45 prisoners, 25 of whom were fighting men, without the loss of any one of his company, save a Mohegin Indian: many of the rest were badly wounded, as appeared by the bushes being much besmeared with blood, as was observed by those who followed them further.

It is since written from Albany, that there were sundry lost besides the 45 abovementioned, to the number of three score in all."

This battle was probably fought in Stockbridge, near the site of the meeting-house erected in 1784, recently taken down. In removing the earth, to prepare for the foundation of the house, Indian bones were found, which may have been the bones of persons slain in the conflict.

The tendency of this battle was greatly to alarm the Indians in Berkshire. The flight of the remnants of Eastern tribes through their territory afterwards, reporting the slaughter of their fathers, women and children, and the destruction of their villages, was calculated to produce the same effect.

A particular account of the Stockbridge Indians will be given in the history of that town.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY, SOIL, &c.—Berkshire County is hilly and mountainous, presenting a very uneven surface. High hills and deep vallies cover it. Along the eastern boundary, and extending westward, often to the middle of the County, is a high range of hills, being a continuation of the *Green Mountains* of Vermont, southwards into Connecticut. The east line of the County extends generally a little to the eastward of the highest part of this range. Passing from the summit westward, there are two or three ranges of hills, generally of less elevation, until we come to the valley of the Housatonic* river. Through this valley there are also distinct ranges of hills; but they are broken down to the level of the valley, and appear to the traveller as insulated hills.

The elevation of several points in the east range is perhaps 1800 or 2000 feet above the valley; but the general level of the range may be taken at about 1600 feet. Towards the north part of the County, this range is more elevated. *Saddle Mountain*, lying between Williamstown and New Ashford on the west, and Adams and Cheshire on the east, is considered to belong to the eastern range. Its highest summit, called *Graylock*, lying nearly west of the south village in Adams, is 2800 feet, by barometrical measurement, above the level of the valley at Williams College, and very nearly 3580 feet above tidewater at Albany. Two other points of this mountain are several hundred feet lower than Graylock, although they are very elevated peaks. This mountain is the highest in the Commonwealth. Two of its summits have at a distance the general form of a *saddle*—hence its name. It presents a very grand appearance from several towns at the south, as well as from many towns in the adjoining counties on the east.

* The orthography of the name of this river, and of various other names, common in the County, has been very different at different times and places. Thus, Hoosic has been and is written Hoosick, Hoosuck, and Hoosue. Dr Dwight proposes Hoestonue—but it is not thus written in any records.

The west side of Saddle Mountain has a lower ridge, the higher points of which are about 1800 feet above the College, and the whole is closely connected with the principal mountain. This lower ridge is broken into two parts, nearly west of Graylock, quite to the foot of the mountain, forming what people commonly call the *Hopper*. In some parts the rocks are bare for hundreds of feet in elevation, with a steep slope, and the strata of rock are to be seen in many places quite to the base. The Hopper is one of the wildest and most romantic spots in this section of our country. The patches of *evergreens* occurring on the sides of the mountain, are frowning with gloom on the spectator, whose eye is then relieved by resting on the bare cliffs, or the cultivated fields beside him. Saddle Mountain is about six miles in length, and is altogether a noble pile of mountains. It is separated from the range on the east only by the narrow valley of the Hoosic in Adams. The range of hills along the east of the County, is nowhere cut through by deep valleys, affording good passages for roads—but the traveller is obliged to pass over high elevations to descend to the valley of the Connecticut. The principal roads to the east cross this range in Florida, Savoy, Peru, Becket, and Sandisfield.

Along the western boundary of the County, runs the *Taconic* range of mountains. In the South part, the line is considerably west of the summit—along the middle of the County, is near the summit—and towards the north, it is, in different places, on both sides of the summit. Owing to the direction of the range more westerly, the north-west corner is many hundred feet below and east of the summit of the range. The Taconic range extends by its spurs from one to three or four miles easterly into the County. On the west of Pittsfield, this range begins to turn more towards the east, leaving the most of Hancock on the west of the higher part, which ends abruptly in a high hill at the south part of Williamstown, bounding the Williamstown valley on the south. Another ridge passes off from it in Hancock, west of Lanesborough, along which the boundary line is continued on the west of Hancock and Williamstown. The spur, which by terminating as mentioned above, *affords a space* for the Williamstown valley,

seems to commence again north of the valley, and to continue its course into Vermont. The eastern range is every where covered to the summit with the original forest trees.

The Taconic range is much the most elevated and least broken in the south part of the County. As you pass northwards, it is divided by deep valleys nearly to its base, forming comparatively easy passages for roads. This is specially true in passing from West Stockbridge and the middle of Hancock into the State of New York. The general elevation of the Taconic range, at the north and below the middle of the County, is about 1200 or 1400 feet. In Egremont, it becomes considerably higher; and the highest summit of *Taconic* mountain, often called Mount Washington, on the west of Sheffield, is elevated about 2400 feet above the *plain* in that town, and 3150 feet above the tide water of the Housatonic river. This mountain has two prominent peaks, of which the south may be about 400 feet lower than that just mentioned. It is composed of numerous piles of mountains, extending several miles in length. It has a very grand appearance. The rock, towards the summit of this mountain, is to a great extent destitute of soil, and the higher parts are nearly destitute of trees.

The *Housatonic valley* extends from Lanesborough and Windsor on the north, or from about twelve miles south of the north boundary of the County, southwards through the middle of it. Its breadth is very various. Reckoning from the foot of the east and west range of hills, it varies from four to eight miles. The insulated hills which so often occur in it, give it the appearance generally of being much narrower than this. These hills disappear in Pittsfield, and afford a very fine and wide opening. In Lenox and Lee, the valley appears much narrower; in Stockbridge, it is rather wider; becomes wider in Great Barrington; and in Sheffield, as the hills are less frequent, appears wider still; though the largest opening is in the town first mentioned. The beauty of this valley has often been remarked by travellers. In the southern part of the County, the beauty of the level road is greatly heightened by its proximity to the Housatonic. The mountain scenery

of this valley can never fail to attract the eye and interest the feelings of the man of taste.

The *valley of Williamstown*, lying between the Taconic range on the west, and Saddle Mountain on the east, is much narrower and shorter than the one already described. It presents many bold and sublime views of the adjoining mountains and hills, which are at such a distance from the eye in the middle of the valley, as to show themselves to the greatest advantage. The richness of the vegetation, and the thickness and luxuriance and numerous colours of the forests on the hills, have called forth the admiration of all the lovers of wild and romantic scenery who have visited it. The varying landscape of the valley itself, lies in full view from many of the eminences, bounded by the grand scenery of the mountains.

On the south-west, this valley extends several miles, narrow indeed, into the town of Hancock. It is also connected on the east, with the narrow valley of Adams, winding between Saddle Mountain on the west, and Hoosic Mountain in Florida on the east, in the most picturesque manner, on both sides of the south and principal branch of the Hoosic river, southwards through Cheshire. Indeed, the valley of Adams extends southwards with a gradual ascent to the valley of the Housatonic, in the north-east part of Pittsfield, passing a slight elevation, from which the waters run northwards into the Hoosic, or southwards into the Housatonic.

The valley of Williamstown is separated much more perfectly from that of the Housatonic, on the south in New Ashford, by the multitude of hills which stretch across this town to the south-east part of Saddle Mountain. The romantic scenery along the narrow and winding defile through which the county road passes in this part of New Ashford, the hills being almost in contact with the traveller, never fails to attract attention. Indeed, the steepness of the cultivated hills, and the road winding along a murmuring branch of the Hoosic, has often reminded the traveller of the interesting scenery of Switzerland.

Besides the general ranges and mountains already mentioned, a few others deserve to be noticed.

*Alum Hill*, on the south-east of Sheffield, and separating the Housatonic from *Kunkapot* river. This is only the termination of the north-east mountain, on the north-east of Sheffield, extending north several miles into Great Barrington, and having an elevated summit of perhaps 1600 feet above the Housatonic at the west base.

*Monument Mountain* is on the south of Stockbridge, and situated chiefly in Great Barrington; receives its name from an *Indian* monument of quartz stones, a little west of the highest part crossed by the county road. The white cliffs of this mountain are quartz, and present a very fine view from the village of Stockbridge, and especially from the *hill*, or from Little Hill, as the meanderings of the Housatonic lie at the feet of the spectator. The elevation of this mountain is about 500 feet above the *plain*, in Stockbridge, and 1250 feet above the tide water of the Housatonic.

*Stockbridge Mountain*, separating Stockbridge from West Stockbridge, and on the west of which lie the quarries of marble in the latter town, extends north through Lenox. The great road from Springfield through Stockbridge to Albany, crosses this mountain.

*Lenox Mountain* seems to be only a continuation of the last mentioned mountain. It is crossed by the road from Lenox through Richmond to Lebanon Springs and Albany. It extends north into Pittsfield.

*Rattlesnake Hill*, or *Mountain*, in the north-east part of Stockbridge, is a single and beautiful elevation.

*Beartown Mountain*, on the south-east of Stockbridge, and north-east of Great Barrington, and forming the north-west part of Tyringham, and the south-west part of Lee, is a large and grand pile of hills.

Near the middle of West Stockbridge is a high hill, which divides the town into two distinct portions; south of which is another, called Tom Ball, extending into Great Barrington and Alford.

*Washington Mountain*, on the south-east of Pittsfield, and chiefly in Washington, has a lofty and round summit; extends south to Lee, and forms the east boundary of the Housatonic valley for several miles.

*Hancock Mountain*, on the west of Pittsfield, is *chiefly in* Hancock; 14 miles long; extends south into

Richmond, and north along the west line of Lanesborough and New Ashford, and terminates at the south part of the Williamstown valley. Over this mountain passes the great road from Pittsfield to Lebanon Springs and Albany; and further north, the road from Lanesborough to Albany passes the same mountain.

*Peru Mountain*, is in the town of Peru, over which passes the turnpike from Pittsfield to Northampton and Boston.

*Becket Moumtain* is a continuation of the same part of the east range as the last, over which the turnpike from Stockbridge to Springfield and Boston passes.

*Hoosic Mountain* lies on the east side of Adams, chiefly in Florida; elevation about 1700 feet; extends north into Vermont; is here the principal part of the east range, and is crossed by the great road from Williamstown to Greenfield and Boston. A few miles at the south, and at a less elevation, it is crossed by the road leading from the south village of Adams to Northampton.

*Pownal Mountain*, is north of Williamstown, and chiefly in Vermont.

*Oak Hill* is on the north-east of Williamstown, chiefly in Clarksburg and Adams; a wide range of hills, elevated from 1200 to 1400 feet; extends into Vermont. The west side presents a most beautiful scene from the valley of Williamstown.

*West Hills*, the continuation of the Taconic range, along the boundary of the State in Hancock and Williamstown; elevated about 1300 feet; turn westerly at the north to afford a passage for Hoosic river: over this, directly west of the College, it is proposed to open a road from Williamstown to Troy, N. Y., which will lessen the distance near one fourth. This road is yet imperfectly wrought, and passes over high ground; and is made much more difficult by descending into a deep valley on the west side of this range.

Reference will be made to some other hills also, in the Geology of the County, in some of the following pages.

RIVERS, PONDS, &c.—The two principal rivers are the Housatonic and Hoosic. The former is much the larger and longer.

The *Housatonic* river is formed by two principal branches, which unite in Pittsfield, about one mile south-east of the meeting-house. The *eastern* branch rises in Windsor, and pursues a south-westerly course through Dalton, where it receives a considerable stream from Hinsdale, to Pittsfield, forming numerous sites for the application of *water power*. On this branch are the large manufactories of paper in Dalton. A cotton factory is on this branch at the east part of the village of Pittsfield.

The *western* branch is commonly said to originate in the pond or lake lying in Pittsfield and Lanesborough, but chiefly in the latter town. This pond is of an elliptic form, considerably more than a mile in length, and about a mile in width, having a small island near the middle of it. It is a beautiful sheet of water, and is viewed to great advantage from the hill on the east of it, over which the county road passes from Pittsfield to Lanesborough. This pond is commonly called the North or Lanesborough Pond. It has a small marsh on its northern border, which is supposed to render the atmosphere unhealthy in its vicinity; as the inhabitants in this part of Lanesborough are more liable to suffer from fevers in the autumn, than those situated about other parts of it.

The principal stream which enters this pond, rises in the south-west part of New Ashford, on high ground, where its waters are easily turned to the north to unite with the Hoosic, or naturally to the south, and constituting the head waters of the western branch of the Housatonic. This stream runs south-easterly and south through Lanesborough, forming some small mill sites in the north part of the town, but running with a slow stream through most of the valley in Lanesborough to the pond before mentioned. It is probable that this pond was more elevated formerly, and covered a portion of the low ground on its north side, which is now excellent *meadow* land. A tributary to this stream rises in the south-east part of New Ashford and north-west part of Cheshire, and unites with it two or three miles before

the western branch comes to the pond. From the Lanesborough Pond, the western branch pursues a southerly course, below and west of the village of Pittsfield, affording in the first two miles below the pond, numerous and very excellent sites for mills, many of which are occupied by grist-mills, saw-mills, fulling mills, Pontoosuc Woollen Factory, gun factory, triphammer shops, machine factory, &c. Still further south, and before this stream has turned much to the east to unite with the eastern branch of the Housatonic, important *water privileges* are already occupied.

Another pond or lake in the western part of Pittsfield, called West Pond, is said to be larger than the Lanesborough or North Pond, and discharges its waters into the west branch of the Housatonic, west of the village in Pittsfield.

Several other smaller ponds, south and east of the centre of Pittsfield, discharge their waters into the Housatonic. Owing to the greater breadth of the valley in Pittsfield, and the number of ponds, the air is more humid than in most parts of the County, and the quantity of dew appears to be considerably greater.

The course of the Housatonic, from the junction of the two branches in Pittsfield, is somewhat southerly along the east part of Lenox to the village in Lee, offering numerous *water privileges* also, occupied by mills, the furnace in the south-east part of Lenox, paper factories near the centre of Lee, machinery for cutting and turning timber for chairs, &c. The important mill sites in this part of Lee, are near and a little north of the village. A little south and west of the village in Lee, the Housatonic turns to the west, along the north base of Beartown Mountain. In the south-west part of Lee, its important mill sites are occupied by a forge, extensive factories for paper, &c. The river continues its course westerly into Stockbridge, thence north-westerly round the north part of Monument Mountain; thence south-westerly in the west part of Stockbridge, along the east base of Stockbridge Mountain, and thence southerly along the west base of Monument Mountain, over considerable rapids and falls into Great Barrington. In the west and south-west part of Stockbridge, and the upper part of Great Barrington, are some very impor-

tant mill sites, several of which are unoccupied. From Monument Mountain, in a slow, winding course it comes to the middle of this town, through a beautiful intervale, where it forms an important mill site at Barrington Bridge. Thence its course is southerly, winding, and generally slow, to and through Sheffield, turning in the south part of this town towards the west, and thence again south to the line of the State of Connecticut. At the *line*, the elevation above *tide water*, at Derby, Con. is six hundred and twelve feet, and the river is here ten or twelve rods in width, with a depth of perhaps four feet. At Great Barrington, it is about six or seven rods in width, and its depth less than three feet. At Stockbridge, the width is little less, but with less depth of water. At the junction of the two branches in Pittsfield, the river is about three rods wide, and perhaps has an average depth of two feet.

Near the village in Lee, the Housatonic receives an important branch from the east, which rises in *Green Water Pond* in Becket, and towards the south-west of Lee, Hop Brook, which flows through Tyringham, joins it from the south-east.

In the south and east part of Lenox, and north-west of Lee, are some small natural ponds, whose waters run into the Housatonic on the west.

In Stockbridge, *Konkapot's Brook*, which rises in the south-west part of Tyringham and north-east of Great Barrington, runs north-westerly and receives *Negro Brook*, issuing from a small pond and marsh on the north-east base of Monument Mountain, and the whole unites with the Housatonic from the south, near the village of Stockbridge. A little farther west and north, a considerable stream from the north, and issuing from *Great Pond* in Stockbridge, joins the Housatonic. This pond is about a mile and an half in length, and in the widest part a mile in breadth; is bounded by a part of the Stockbridge Mountain on the west and north-west, whose summits and foliage and hollows are often reflected from its silver surface most delightfully to the eye. The road passing along the east side of Great Pond to Lenox, affords splendid scenery. Near the outlet of Great Pond are valuable *water privileges*.

In Great Barrington, besides several smaller streams, the Housatonic is increased from the north-west by *Williams' River*, whose head waters are in Richmond, and in Canaan, N. Y., and which, passing through a natural pond in West Stockbridge, afford fine mill sites on the north-east part of that town. This place, formerly so well known as the seat of Williams' Iron Works, has now several mills, and is indeed very active and business-like, by the working of vast quantities of marble. Besides supplying other mills in its course, this stream supplies the mills and factories at Van Deusenville, in Great Barrington, half a mile west of its junction with the Housatonic.

Near the boundary between Great Barrington and Sheffield, the Housatonic receives *Green River*, from the north-west. It is so named from the *colour* of its waters, which is probably owing to the clay washed out of the banks. The colour, however, is the same through the year, except in the period of freshets, when its waters are muddy. This stream rises in *Austerlitz*, N. Y., and runs along the town of Alford and through the south-west part of Great Barrington, to the point mentioned.

In Sheffield, at a little distance north of the meeting-house, two streams unite, whose waters are crossed by the bridge directly at the point of union. One of these rises in Egremont and the north-west part of Sheffield, called here *Hubbard's Brook*, and pursues a south-east course to this point. The other, called *Kisnop*, or *Kersnop Brook*, rises from two large ponds or lakes in Salisbury, Con., and pursues a northerly and northeasterly course through the low grounds on the west part of Sheffield and east of Taconic Mountain, with a dull, sluggish stream, to the point of junction just mentioned. The whole stream then passes easterly through the meadows to the Housatonic, about a mile north-east of the meeting-house in Sheffield.

Little more than a mile further south, the Housatonic receives a stream from the east, which rises in the north-east of Sheffield and north-west part of New Marlborough, and passing through *Three mile Pond*, the main stream runs south-west into the river as above.

Only moderately good water privileges are found on these streams in Sheffield.

At the south part of Sheffield, *Konkapot* river runs from the east into the Housatonic. This stream rises in Tyringham and New Marlborough, the west branch in Six Mile Pond, (near the rise of the stream of the same name which runs northerly into Stockbridge) flows south through New Marlborough, affording valuable mill sites; passes through *Konkapot*, so called from an Indian village, in the south-east part of Sheffield, into Canaan, Ct.; then turning westerly and north-westerly round Alum Hill, runs into Sheffield to find its passage to the Housatonic. This stream has a valuable mill site also in Sheffield, at the place formerly so well known as *Ashley's Iron Works.*

There are some other smaller tributaries to the Housatonic in this part of the County.

Soon after the Housatonic enters into the State of Connecticut, it passes over the *falls* between Canaan and Salisbury, usually called *Canaan Falls.* The river first falls over a rock of about *twenty* feet perpendicular; and a little below, over the principal fall, about *seventy* feet, formed by a ledge of limestone, obliquely crossing the stream, increased a little by a dam erected on its top, and producing a very beautiful and grand appearance. After a rapid current for a short distance, where its waters are whirling and foaming by dashing against the rocky bottom, it falls about ten feet. Its current is then rapid for some distance below. At Derby, the Housatonic meets the *tide water* from Long Island Sound, having received several important streams in its passage through the State of Connecticut.

In all its course through Berkshire County, the Housatonic, though not large and deep enough for boat navigation, is an exceedingly important stream, and contributes beyond calculation to the advantage and prosperity of the inhabitants. Many of its sites for the application of *water power*, have been mentioned; of which a more full account may be given under the account of manufactories in the various towns.

A survey of the elevation of the Housatonic was made a few years since by Judge Wright, to test the practicability of constructing a profitable Canal from Derby, in

Connecticut, to the middle of Berkshire County. According to this survey, the ascent from tide water at Derby to the top of Canaan falls, is - - - - 606 ft.

From Canaan Falls to the bridge in Great Barrington, - - - - - - - - - - - 39
Thence to the Woollen Factory in Stockbridge, 120
Thence to the dam of Lee Forge, - - - - 25
Thence to the dam of Lenox Furnace, - - - 96
Thence to the foot of Wheeler's dam in Pittsfield, 21

907 ft.

This rapid ascent will probably prevent the construction of a Canal along the Housatonic, until the population and trade shall have very greatly increased.

Along the Housatonic in Berkshire County to Pittsfield, there is an interval of alluvial (*made*) land, very rich, easily cultivated, yielding abundance of grass. It is wider in the south part of the County, and occasionally disappears from the near approach of the hills; but often extends from one fourth of a mile to a mile in width. A considerable portion of it is annually overflowed by the melting of the snows in March, presenting a flood of waters in some places a mile in width in Sheffield, and varying from a foot to ten feet in depth, according to the inequalities of the surface. This flood is of great consequence in enriching annually the soil of this *interval.* On great falls of rain in summer, much damage is sometimes done to the grass and crops in this interval, by the rise of the river. Through the southern part of the County, the river appears at different times to have had its bed over nearly the width of the interval. The deep hollows and *coves* in the meadows, in some of which water continues many feet in depth through the year, prove clearly where its bed once lay. It is continually changing its course now, slowly but constantly wearing away from one bank, and forming *alluvion* on the other; and in this progress often uncovering trees from one to two or three feet in diameter, in a state of complete preservation, often at a depth of six, eight and ten feet below the surface. These trees must have been buried for ages.

At the commencement of the rise of the waters in the spring, thousands of logs of *pine* and *hemlock*, have

been thrown into this river, and floated down its current from Great Barrington and Sheffield for years, over the falls at Canaan, to New Milford and Derby, where they have been converted into boards, plank, shingles, &c. for market in Connecticut and New York. The rise of the water has commonly carried them safely over the rocks in the stream. Their passage over the Falls has often been witnessed with amazement. This trade has carried a very great portion of the *pine timber* from the south part of the County.

*Hoosic River* has a northerly and north-westerly course. The *south*, and principal, branch rises in the south-east part of Lanesborough, 994 feet above the Hudson at Albany, runs north-easterly through Cheshire, and thence northerly through the south village of Adams to the north village in this town. Here it turns to to the west, to pass round the north end of Saddle Mountain and near the south base of Oak Hill into Williamstown. Directly north of Saddle Mountain, and on the *north side* of the Hoosic, stood, at a little distance from the stream, Hoosic Fort. Through Williamstown, the course of the river is north-westerly to the foot of North-west Hill, nearly two miles north-west from the College, where it turns towards the north, and passes into Pownal, Vt. Its course then becomes north-easterly through Hoosic, N. Y. to Hoosic Falls, from which it holds a westerly course to Schaghticoke Point, where it unites with the Hudson, about ten miles north of the city of Troy.

At the south village of Adams are important *water privileges* on the Hoosic, occupied by cotton factories and mills. Here it receives a small tributary from the east, which rises in the mountains towards Savoy. Here the Hoosic is little more than a rod in width, with an average depth of perhaps one foot. Its course is slow through the narrow valley of Adams to the north village, where is a very valuable mill site. Here is a grist-mill, saw-mill, oil-mill, machine factory and cotton factory. A few rods below this site, it is joined by a stream, called the North Branch of the Hoosic, which rises in Vermont, and passing southerly through Clarksburg along the base of Hoosic Mountain, turns to the west near this village in Adams to unite with the other branch.

as just stated. It is along this branch that it was proposed the Canal, to unite the Hudson and Connecticut rivers, should pass, around the north end of Hoosic Mountain. The summit level would be in Vermont. About a mile north-east of the village, this branch receives from the north-west a stream called *Hudson's Brook*, and rising in Clarkbsurg, which near the Hoosic passes the *Falls* or *Cave* in *white granular limestone*. This interesting passage through *marble* walls will be described in the account of Adams. Below the junction of Hudson's Brook, is the furnace, cotton and woollen factories, &c. on this branch.

After the union of the two branches, the Hoosic is about three or four rods in width, with a depth of perhaps eighteen to twenty-four inches. Its current becomes more rapid. Near the west part of Adams is another mill site, occupied by a woollen factory and mill. And other suitable sites occur in several places, by taking out the water into a canal.

In Williamstown, about a mile north-east from the College, another tributary, called *Green River*, from the colour of its waters, enters the Hoosic from the south. This stream, which is entirely distinct from that of the same name which unites with the Housatonic in the south part of the County, rises in the south-west part of New Ashford. It is increased by another from the south-east part of the same town and Cheshire. At the south village in Williamstown, it is joined by a stream from Hancock, on the west side of that spur of the Taconic range which divides Hancock from Lanesborough and New Ashford. Further north it receives a stream from the *Hopper* of Saddle Mountain. Green River is a rapid stream of small width and depth; but several mill sites are found on it and its tributaries. Near the College, a cotton factory is erected upon it.

Another stream, called *West Brook*, rises in the west and south part of Williamstown, and running northerly and just west of the village, joins the Hoosic about one and a half miles north-west of the College.

Hoosic River, with all its branches, is subject to a sudden rise of water, as its volume is greatly increased by rains and the melting of snow from the neighboring hills and mountains. It is an important stream, from

its rapid descent, and the number of situations it affords for the application of water power.

Along the banks of the Hoosic in Williamstown, is a rich interval, a tract of alluvial land, exceedingly well adapted to the production of grass, and in the higher parts, of wheat, Indian corn, &c. This interval varies from a few rods to near half a mile in width. Considerable portions of it are overflowed in the spring, and enriched by the depositions from the waters.

In the north-east part of the County, *Deerfield* river passes for several miles. It is formed of two branches, rising considerably to the north, one in Woodford, and the other in Somerset, Vt., which pursue a southerly course to their junction; thence south-westerly in the north-west part of Franklin County, to pass round the mountains. Near the north-east part of Florida, it turns considerably more westerly, and winding through the hills on almost every point of the compass, forms the eastern boundary of Florida for some distance. On the south-east part of the town, the river has an easterly course through the unincorporated tract, called Zoar, into Charlemont, in Franklin County, and thence to Connecticut river. Rising and running through a very hilly and mountainous section, where the hills appear piled together in the greatest confusion, the Deerfield is a wild and mad stream. The ice frozen upon its rocks in winter, is very rarely broken up till spring, usually the latter part of March. The *breaking up of the river*, as it is familiarly called, is a sublime scene. By the melting of the snow on the mountains, the water is raised several feet before the ice is sufficiently loosened to be borne away by the current. At this time the stream becomes a torrent, producing a perpetual roar from the dash of the waters over the rocks, the breaking up and concussions of the masses of ice. Rocks, often weighing tons, are raised up by the buoyant masses of ice and borne along the stream. The spectacle is grand and appalling, and annually attracts the amazed attention of the inhabitants on its banks, at whatever hour of the day or night the *breaking up* takes place.

The *North Branch* of *Westfield River* rises in a pond in Windsor, in this County. The stream runs *northerly* and thence easterly round the hills, and then

turning southerly, passes through Plainfield and Cummington, in the adjoining county of Hampshire.

The *Middle Branch* of Westfield river rises in Peru, and passes south-westerly into Worthington, in Hampshire County, and thence southerly on the east boundary of Middlefield, in the same county.

The *West Branch* of Westfield river has its origin in Washington and Becket, and runs south-easterly to unite with the other branches in Montgomery, in Hampden County, forming in its course the south-western boundary of Middlefield.

In *Becket* are several ponds of considerable size, connected with different streams, some of which run easterly into Westfield river, and some westerly into the Housatonic and Farmington rivers.

A pond in the south-west part of the town, together with the waters from Viets' Swamp, give rise to the last mentioned river. The stream is commonly called the *West Branch* of the Farmington river. It pursues a south-easterly course through Otis, where it receives the outlet of Great Pond, (the largest pond in the County,) Rand Pond, &c.: it then passes along nigh the boundary between Sandisfield, (which sends to it two considerable tributaries,) and the town of Tolland, in Hampden County. After leaving this State, it runs through Colebrook and various towns in Connecticut, winding its devious way through and round the hills to Connecticut river.

A small brook which runs into the *head pond* of Farmington river, may be easily directed north-westerly into Green Water Pond, whose outlet joins the Housatonic in Lee; a fact which may ultimately be of consequence in extending the Farmington Canal far into the County of Berkshire.

Great Pond also lies near the head waters of Westfield Little river, which takes an easterly course through Blanford, in Hampden County, and unites with Westfield river in the town of Westfield. The pond may be connected, without any very serious difficulty, with that river; and thus be used for the purposes of a canal, or the lifts of a rail-road, should one be constructed through this region.

It will be inferred from this account of the rivers, that the *spurs* of the eastern range of mountains in Berkshire County, have their course turned considerably towards the east, so as to form an easy passage for the streams towards the Connecticut.

These small streams, comparatively rapid in their course, supply great conveniences to the inhabitants in the eastern part of the County in the erection of mills and various machinery, to be moved by the cheapest of all the *moving forces*, water.

Besides the natural ponds already mentioned, there are two others on Taconic Mountain. One of these is on the north-east of the principal summit, in Sheffield, about one fourth of a mile in diameter, and about six or seven hundred feet lower than this peak. Its waters are discharged eastward down the mountain into *Kisnop Brook*.

Another pond lies on the west of the highest peak, at an elevation of perhaps three or four hundred feet less: its waters are discharged westward to run into the Hudson. Further south, near the south-west part of Sheffield, a mountain torrent descends from the Taconic range to increase the volume of Kisnop Brook. In the spring, and after great rains, this stream is to be seen from many parts of the valley in Sheffield, descending in a white sheet or line, and presenting a very picturesque appearance.

This general view of the streams, ponds, &c., proves that the County is well watered, and affords sites for the erection of manufacturing establishments, mills, &c., moved by water, to almost an unlimited extent. This will be more apparent when the vicinity of the hills and mountains is considered, as well as the rapid descent of the streams, excepting the course of the Housatonic in Sheffield, and a part of Great Barrington and Stockbridge. A very moderate rain, even in the drier times of summer, affects the mountain streams, and the frequent recurrence of showers, under the wise provisions of Providence, usually affords an adequate supply of *moving power*.

The *irrigation* of meadows and pastures [illegible] the course of the small streams, may be practised to a *very great* extent.

on a small scale, and always to the great advantage of the agriculturalist.

An abundant supply of wholesome water is a matter of vast consequence to every people. Situated in a hilly country, springs and small streams are abundant in Berkshire; and there are few places, even in the most level tracts of the County, where a copious supply is not obtained by the sinking of wells to a moderate depth. As a wide range of limestone passes through the County, many of the springs and wells through the middle and lower parts, afford water containing a small quantity of *gypsum* in solution, and thence denominated *hard water*. The easy method of carrying water in aqueducts, however, puts it in the power of almost every man to enjoy the luxury of *soft* water. But there are many persons who consider the *hard* water to be far more palatable and pleasant. An easier method still, is by the use of *cisterns*, for containing *rain water*, as a very little precaution preserves it pure, and it is well known to be exceedingly pleasant for all culinary purposes. In winter it is as agreeable as the softest water; and in summer, cooled by a piece of ice, it is equally pleasant. The preservation of *ice* in cheap buildings prepared for it, is an easy matter; and it is recommended to the attention of all who have not access to the *cool* waters of a *spring*. It puts into the hand of every man a luxury of nature, procured at the least expense.

The construction of aqueducts of *wooden* or *earthen* pipes, has been found too unprofitable in this County to be deserving of repetition, except on a very small scale. The strength of the materials is not sufficient to endure the pressure of the water, when carried to any considerable distance, even if they be laid so low as to escape the influence of frost, a point rarely effected. The resort must be to pipes of *lead* or *cast iron*. The *lead* pipes are now made in Adams for this purpose; and the employment of them is becoming relatively common. The only disadvantage of these pipes, is the formation of a small quantity of carbonate of lead, which may act as a poison upon those who use the water conveyed in them, unless there be provision for the deposition of this poison in a reservoir. *Iron pipes* are

entirely free from this evil. In the celebrated *Water Works* at Philadelphia, only pipes of cast iron are used; and are considered on the whole as the cheapest.

The construction of *cisterns* of *brick* or *stone*, laid in *hydraulic* mortar, would be a great improvement, and is recommended to the attention of the citizens. Considering the rapid decay of *wooden* cisterns, and their exposure to leaks, with the consequent expense of procuring water for the time, cisterns of brick must be on the whole far more economical. They will last for centuries.

The *boring* for water, which has proved so successful in so many places in our country, has not been tried in the County.

The project of uniting the Hudson with Connecticut river by means of a Canal across Berkshire County, seems scarcely practicable, at least so as to make it profitable. The easiest course for such a Canal is unquestionably by the valley of the Hoosic river to Adams in this County, passing through Williamstown. In order to connect this with the Deerfield river on the east side of Hoosic Mountain, it is necessary either to follow the North Branch of the Hoosic into Vermont, round the north end of Hoosic Mountain, rising at least eight hundred feet, in eleven miles, to the summit level, or to work a *tunnel* from the north village in Adams through Hoosic Mountain, a distance of four or five miles. The rapid elevation in the distance of eleven miles, renders the former next to impracticable, were it even certain that there might be obtained the adequate supply of water on the summit level. The elevation from the Hudson at Albany to Colgrove's mill pond in Adams, is known to be 691 feet, and 654 feet above the Connecticut at Springfield, and is far too great for the construction of a profitable Canal. It will be remembered that Lake Erie is only 537 feet above the Hudson at Albany. The *tunnel* through Hoosic Mountain will not probably be formed by the present generation. The work is not impossible, though the mountain is composed of granite and mica slate, which are rocks difficult to be penetrated. In every project for a Canal, it is all-important to ascertain that the extent of country and quantity of trade to be affected by it, is sufficient to justify the expense.

No part of our country probably is so favorably situated in both these respects as that to which the *Grand Canal* extends its benefits.

As the summit level, mentioned above, is less than the elevation across the eastern range in any other place in the County, the union of the Hudson and Connecticut cannot be expected to be practicable. There can be no exception to this, unless the Canal should be made from the Hudson through Stockbridge to the west part of Becket, and thence along the waters of Farmington river. In this case, the course of the Canal would be so *circuitous* as probably to destroy the project.

The continuation of the Farmington Canal into the eastern, and perhaps to the middle of the County, by the western branch of Farmington river, is thought by many to be practicable. This, however, would be of little benefit to the supposed Canal from the Hudson to the Connecticut; especially if the Connecticut were to be connected with the waters of Boston harbor.

The projected Canal from New York to Sharon, Con. was intended to be continued, and to follow the Housatonic to the middle of the County. This project appears now to be abandoned by most of its friends. The greater cheapness with which *Rail-roads* are believed to be constructed, will probably delay the execution of these projects.

ELEVATIONS.—Besides the elevation of places already mentioned, a few others are added, taken chiefly from the survey of the *Rail-road*, and given in feet above Hudson river at Albany. Some, which are estimated from the elevation (measured) of places near them, are marked with a star. It should be noticed that the Hudson at Albany is 37 feet below the level of Connecticut river at Springfield, "5 or 6 feet above low water mark," and that this point is 64 feet above the *marsh* or Charles River, near Boston.

| | *Feet.* |
|---|---|
| *W. Stockbridge*, at upper mill pond, near the village, | 887 |
| *Stockbridge*, at Lester's bridge, | 805 |
| " Street of village near Mr. Williams' | 827 |

| | Feet. |
|---|---|
| *Lee*, Owen's paper mill pond, | 831 |
| " Housatonic, Lee village bridge, | 863 |
| " Church's mill pond, | 879 |
| *Lenox*, pond at furnace, | 928 |
| " Court House, | 1178* |
| *Pittsfield*, road at line of Dalton, | 1036 |
| " Sill of Gen. Root's factory, | 985 |
| " Meeting-house, | 1035* |
| " Shakers' mill pond, | 1090 |
| *Richmond*, Hartford and Albany turnpike, | 1091 |
| " Door-step of Rev. Mr. Dwight, | 1147 |
| *Dalton*, against Meeting-house, | 1180 |
| *Hinsdale*, Morrison's mill pond on Housatonic, | 1416 |
| *Washington*, summit of Rail-road, | 1478 |
| *Lanesborough*, Brook and Powell's mill pond, | 1011 |
| " At line of Cheshire, on Rail-road survey, | 971 |
| *Cheshire*, Oil nut by village, | 976 |
| *Adams*, Robinson's House, south village, | 793 |
| " Turner's factory pond, | 764 |
| " Hoosic river, by Jones' bridge, | 643 |
| *Williamstown*, Hoosic, at Noble's bridge, | 589 |
| " Line of Vt. at Ware's brook and Hoosic river, | 550* |
| " Chapel of Williams College, | 730* |
| *Sheffield*, Housatonic at line of Connecticut, above tide water at Derby, Con. | 612 |
| " Meeting-house, | 630* |
| *Great Barrington*, Meeting-house, | 655* |
| " Housatonic at the bridge, | 645 |

## NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

1. WILD ANIMALS. In the early settlement of the County, the *Bear*, and *Deer*, and *Wolf*, though not abundant, were not uncommon. These have long since disappeared. Occasionally, indeed, a deer or a few bears pass along the Green Mountains into the north part of the County, and excite all the remnant of the old *hunt-*

*ing* spirit. A few have been killed in Williamstown and its vicinity within the last ten years. The *Fox* is occasionally hunted, and a few are killed. The *Woodchuck*, *Skunk*, and *Squirrel*, gray, black, red, and striped, are common; the *Muskrat* and *Mink* and *Weasel*, are rather rare; the *Rabbit* and *Hare*, and several kinds of *Field Rats* and *Mice*, still remain. The *Porcupine* or *Hedgehog* is occasionally caught on the hills in the north part of the County. The *Lynx*, commonly called the *Wild-cat*, or *Mountain Cat*, has become very rare, but has been seen on the hills in the south part of the County within a few years. The *Raccoon* is found, not abundantly, in various parts of the County.

2. BIRDS. The birds offer very considerable variety. Some of the smaller kinds are numerous. The *Wild Turkey* has disappeared; the *Eagle* is rarely seen; the *Gull* and *Loon* occasionally visit our ponds; the *Black Duck* is common; the *Wild Goose* is seen in its flight from or to the north, and sometimes descends to our streams, having apparently lost its course; the *Heron* is rare; the *Fish Hawk*, *Hen Hawk*, and *Pigeon* or *Sly Hawk*, the *Snipe*, *King-fisher*, *Dodger*, not uncommon; the *Crow* is common, and often remains through the winter; the common *Blackbird*, variegated or *Skunk Blackbird*, *Thrush*, yellow *Robin*, *Red Robin* or *Red-breast*, *Mocking-Bird*, *Cat-Bird*, *Chirping Bird*, *Ground Bird*, *Wren*, *Kingbird*, red-headed *Woodpecker*, *Woodcock*, black and brown, *Killdeer* and *Phebe*, are common. The *Blue Jay* often remains through the winter. The common *Owl* and *Screech Owl* are often heard. The *Snowbird* appears in flocks in winter, sporting in the snows. The *Whip-poor-will* is heard in every town, and the *Night Hawk* often supposed to be the same bird, but well ascertained to be entirely different, is abundant. The *Swallow* barn, chimney, and bank, spend only a short time in this latitude. The same is true of the *Martin*. The common *Pigeon* appears in large flocks from the south-west in the spring, to rear its young and return to the Mississippi valley for the winter. The beautiful *Humming-bird* is frequently seen. The *Dove*, supposed to be imported, may be considered as in a sense domestica-

ted, and stays through the year. The other birds generally disappear in the autumn in their migration to the south to find a milder climate for the winter.

The return of birds in the spring depends upon the season, and varies considerably. In the last eleven years, the Robin has appeared between March 12 and April 2, and generally about March 20. In 1816, however, robins appeared Feb. 24; snow and cold followed, and they were not seen again till March 17. The *Bluebird* is often seen before the robin for a day or two; the *Chirping-bird* about the same time with the robin, and the blackbird a few days later; the Pigeon between March 10th and April 5, commonly about April 1; the Phebe, about April 6; the Swallow about May 1.

Frogs are first heard about April 8; but in 1825, they were heard March 17; the waters were soon frozen over, and they were not heard again till April.

The *torpidity* of many reptiles during winter, has been fully proved. The *migration* of our birds, though generally believed, is not by all considered as fully established. The *hybernation* of a few in hollow trees and the like, cannot account for that of the multitude of the feathered race which disappears. On the other side, it is a singular fact, that flocks of birds are not annually seen passing southwards. May it not be that the migration begins in more northern latitudes, and proceeds southwards as the cold advances and increases? Flocks would not then be seen in rapid motion; and yet, at any given place, the same species might disappear within a day or two, as the fact is known to be.

3. Insects. The insects, though abundant, have not been sufficiently examined to merit much notice. The *Firefly* or *Lightning Bug*, is common in the summer months, shedding its light on the darkness of the lower tracts in the evening. The *Glow Worm* is uncommon. The *Locust* (cicada septendecem) appears in small numbers every year, but has never been sufficiently numerous to be destructive to vegetables. The *Grasshopper*, especially two species, sometimes commit great devastation. In the summer of 1818 they were abundant; and in 1826, far more numerous, greatly injured fields of wheat

oats, grass, &c.; destroyed turnips entirely, and also fields of buckwheat in the north part of the County. They were far more numerous in many places in Vermont.

In 1806, a strong and beautiful *bug* eat out of a table made from an apple-tree, which grew on the farm of Maj. Gen. Putnam, in Brooklyn, Conn., and which was brought to Williamstown when his son, Mr. P. S. Putnam, removed to that town. It was cut down in 1786, sixty-five years after it was transplanted, and if the tree was then fifteen years old, it was 80 years old when cut down. As the *cortical* layers of the *leaf* of the table are about *sixty*, and extend within about *five* of the heart, as the inner ones are quite convex, about fifteen layers have been cut off from the outside. In 1814, a third bug made his way out, the second having appeared two or three years before. The *last* bug came forth from nearest the heart, and 45 cortical layers distant, on the supposition of its age, from the outside. The tree had now been cut down 28 years. Of course, the egg must have been deposited in the wood *seventy-three* years before. This bug eat about three inches along the grain, till it emerged into the light. The eating of the insect was heard for weeks before its appearance. These *facts* were given by Mr. Putnam, in whose possession the table still remains, and were first published in the *Repertory* at Middlebury, Vt., in 1816. One of the bugs, preserved for some time by the Rev. Dr. Fitch, "was about an inch and one fourth long, and one third inch in diameter; colour, dark glistening brown, with tints of yellow." The facts here mentioned are remarkable, but not solitary; several similar cases are recorded. However difficult it may be to account for the preservation of the vivifying principle for so long a time, the facts will enable us to account for the periodical return of some insects, and for the actual appearance of some new ones in countries to which timber is transported. New insects actually occur, though rarely. But in relation to the preservation of the vivifying principle, the difficulty is caused more by our speculations, than by any thing *known* to the contrary. No man can account for the preservation of the vivifying principle for one week, a familiar fact, on any princi-

ple which will not apply equally well to the time of a month, a year, or a century. He can introduce only the peculiar constitution of the thing; which is in fact only the law of Divine operation in the case. A frequent recurrence to this principle, while it will manifest the ignorance of man, will remove his reasons for doubt and wonder, and lead him the oftener to the contemplation of the dependence of all things upon the operation of that amazing power and constant energy of the great Creator, who has brought these things into existence, and continues that existence according to his own wisdom and pleasure.

The organization of insects is probably as complete, certainly as wonderful, as that of the elephant. They are too often regarded as beneath the consideration of men. Their wonderful transformation and economy is well deserving of enlightened curiosity. To lead some to the consideration of these minute works of God, the following facts may be of some consequence.

The *gad-fly*, or *goad fly*, so troublesome to cattle in July and August, but not abundant in this part of the country, is produced from the *grubs* which fall from the backs of cattle in the spring; the egg having been deposited by the fly in the skin of the cattle, the summer before.

The insect, so annoying to sheep in August and September, is produced from a *grub* in the nose of the sheep, the egg of which is deposited in the nostrils of the sheep the season before, and the deposition of whose eggs causes the sheep to attempt to hide their heads under logs and fences, and to run with such rapidity from place to place, to avoid the insects. These worms sometimes work their way into the head of the sheep, producing a fatal disease.

The *bot-fly* or *bot-bee*, is well known to originate from the *nits* deposited on the hairs of the horse, which are taken into the stomach of the animal, transformed into a grub, voided in winter and spring, and finally changed into the *bot-fly*.

The *ugly worm*, a caterpillar on the nettle, when put under a tumbler and fed with the leaves to its satisfaction, fastens itself by the its tail to the upper part of the tumbler; drops off its head, and changes into a rude

sack: from which in a few days issues the common black *butterfly*, with scolloped wings, spangled with reddish-yellow spots.

The worm found upon *silk-weed*, by a similar process, becomes another beautiful butterfly.

The *canker worm*, or apple-tree caterpillar, rolls itself up in a leaf, and in a few days comes out a *brown miller* or *moth*, so common about our *lights* in the evenings of July.

The *cut-worm* changes also into a *brown* moth, which annoys people in the same way.

The *yellow cabbage* worm, often abundant on this plant in September and October, after having eaten sufficiently, drops its head; changes into a kind of *bot-worm* or *grub*; slowly works a passage into the earth; lies till spring, and then works upwards to the surface; changes also into a brown but very different *moth*, and deposits its eggs upon the cabbage for another generation.

The *horn-bug*, so annoying in our summer evenings, is produced from the *grub*, found in the rich earth of our chip-yards and rotten wood.

The large brown *butterfly*, whose wings are spangled with large golden spots, and are often four or five inches across, is produced from the larva found in the strong webbed covering attached to the limbs of the oak. This covering is often four inches in length and near an inch in diameter.

The *Libellula* or *dragon fly*, darting with such rapidity on its four horizontal wings of most delicate network, is produced from the larva, or kind of worm, which is found in the mud on the sides of ditches and the like.

4. REPTILES. The *Rattlesnake*, whose bite is so commonly fatal, is occasionally found in the mountains, both black, and yellow or spotted. The *Black Snake*, or Racer, sometimes with a white ring about the neck, has become much more rare, or has retired to less frequented places. The black *Water Snake* is frequently seen; the *Striped* or *streaked Snake*, common; the *Green Snake*, rather rare; the short and little *black* or *green Snake*, considered by many people as indicating foul

weather by his appearing in the hot days of summer, frequent; the *Spotted* or *Milk Adder*, rare.

Various species of the *Frog* and *Toad* are common, as well as of *Evets* or *Lizards*. The *Bull-frog* raises his loud notes, while the chorus is followed by the varying sounds of many of the less species. This frog, when caught and tied by a leg, will imitate to great perfection the crying of a child. The whistling sounds of the lizards fill the air of many marshes in the evenings of April. The *Hair-worm*, commonly so called, because it is supposed to be produced from *horse hair*, is frequent in stagnant waters. It is well known to be a distinct species of *vermes*, and no more to originate from a horse hair, than an elephant does from a bull-rush. Often several of these worms are found united in a kind of knot, making together some feet in length.

5. Fish. Of fish, only a few varieties are found in the streams and ponds, and these in very limited quantities. The *Sucker*, common in the large streams; the *Trout*, not abundant; the *Perch*, *Dace*, *Bull-head*, *Flat-fish*, *Red-fish* or *Shiners*, *Eels*, &c., common. Within a few years, *Pickerel* have been brought from Connecticut and put into several ponds in the County, which are connected with the Housatonic, and they have become plenty in that river and its ponds. The *Falls* on the Housatonic at Canaan, Con., prevent the ascent of salmon, shad, &c. These have in a few instances been seen to attempt unsuccessfully a passage up the Falls.

The *Shell-fish* are of little consequence. Three kinds of *Tortoise*, or *Mud Turtle*, as they are familiarly called, are found. The black and muddy Tortoise, six to ten inches long, is abundant; the striped or spotted, much less common; and the large Tortoise, sometimes weighing 20 or 30 pounds, whose flesh is considered by epicures as so great a luxury, is occasionally found in the ponds and in the Housatonic.

A species of *Clam*, two or three inches long, is frequent—never used for food. Many species of clam, or of shell-fish resembling them, very small, are found in the streams and muddy waters; also of *water snails*.

The small *Craw-fish*, or fresh water *Lobster*, (astacus Bartoni) three or four inches in length, is often found in the cold mountain rivulets.

VEGETABLES. The County was originally well timbered and fruitful in vegetables. Except the higher parts of Taconic Mountain, the hills were, and many still are, covered to their summits. Saddle Mountain is covered with a complete forest. Most of the original vegetables still remain; probably all of them. Some plants have been introduced from Europe, which are now growing spontaneously; others of this character are cultivated. In the following enumeration of plants, the latter will be marked with the letter C. The plants will be arranged under *the Natural Orders of Jussieu.* The *English* name will also be given; but the reader should be aware that in different parts of the country the same plant has different names, and that the same name is also often given to very different plants, so that little dependance can be placed upon many of the common names of plants.

## CATALOGUE OF PLANTS

FOUND IN THE

## COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE, MS.

NOTE.—In the following list of plants, there is given, under the several Natural Orders, 1. the *botanical* name; 2. the *common* name; 3. the time of flowering; and 4. the locality.

*NAT. ORDER.* AROIDEÆ—(Wild turnip-like.)

POTHOS. 4. 1.
*fœtida.* Skunk cabbage. April. Low, wet places.

CALLA *palustris.* 20. 13. Water arum. May. Wet, muddy bottoms; woods.

ARUM *triphyllum.* 20. 13. Wild turnip. do. Light moist soil; woods and on rivers.
var. *virens.* do. do. do.

TYPHÆ—(Cat-tails.)

TYPHA *latifolia.* 20. 3. Cat-tail. July. In water; muddy bottom.

SPARGANIUM. 20. 3.
*ramosum.* Bur-reed. July. In standing and running water.

## ASPARAGI—(Like asparagus.)

ASPARAGUS. 6. 1.
*officinalis.* C. Asparagus. Gardens.

CONVALLARIA. 6. 1.
*racemosa.* Large Solomon's seal. May. Alluvial soil, and rich hedges.
*multiflora.* do. do. do.
*caniculata.* Solomon's seal. do.
*pubescens.* do. do.
*bifolia.* Small do. May. Woods and hills; common.
*trifolia.* do. do. do. Pittsfield.
*stellata.* do. do. Alluvial; Sheffield and Great Barrington.
*umbellata.* Dragoness plant. May. Woods on hills; common.

MEDEOLA. 6. 3.
*virginica.* Indian cucumber. June. Moist light soil; woods.

TRILLIUM *erectum.* 6. 3. False wake-robin. do.
*cernuum.* Nodding do. do. Moist light soil; S. part of County.
*pictum.* Painted do. do. Hills and woods; light soil.

SMILAX. 21. 6.
*pedunculatis.* Jacob's ladder. June. Alluvial soil.
*herbacea.* do. July. do.
*rotundifolia.* do. June. do. S. part of County.

## LILIACEA—(Lily-like.)

LILIUM *canadense.* 6. 1. Meadow lily. July. Alluvial soil.
*philadelphicum.* Large do. do. do.

ERYTHRONIUM. 6. 1.
*americanum.* Adder-tongue. May. Moist soil; woods.

UVULARIA. 6. 1.
*perfoliata.* Bell-wort. do. do.
*sessilifolia.* do. do. do.

STREPTOPUS. 6. 1.
*amplexifolia.* Rose bell-wort. May. Moist soil; woods.
*roseus.* do. do. do.

TULIPA. 6. 1.
*gesneriana.* C. Common tulip. May. } Gardens.
*suaveolens.* C. Sweet do. do. }

## IRIDES—(Iris-like.)

IRIS *versicolor.* 3. 1. Wild flag or iris. June. In water and marshy places.
*virginica.* Boston iris. June. In water and marshy places; Gt. Barrington.
*plicata.* C. Flower de luce. May. Gardens and yards.

SISYRINCHIUM. 16. 3.
*anceps.* Blue-eyed grass. June. Wet soil; upland meadows.

## CYPEROIDEÆ—(Like Cyperus.)

RHYNCHOSPORA. 3. 1.
*alba.* False bog-rush. July. Wet meadows.

CYPERUS. 3. 1.
*poæformis.* Cyperus. July. Wet, sandy places; upland.
*strigosus.* do. do. Low wet soil.
*flavescens.* do. do. do.

DULICHIUM. 3. 1.
*spathaceum.* Galingale. July. Low marshy places.

SCIRPUS *tenuis.* 31. 1. Club-rush. May. Low grounds.
*capitatus.* do. July. Marshy places.
*acutus.* Great rush. do. do. and about ponds.
*triqueter.* Pond rush. Aug. Pond on Taconic Mt.
*trichodes.* Small do. July. Wet margins of large streams.
*atrovirens.* Large do. do. Low pastures.
*planifolius.* Little rush. June. Dry pastures.

ERIOPHORUM. 3. 1.
*virginicum.* Cotton grass. June. Low, marshy places.

*polystachium.* Wool-heads. May. Low, marshy places.
*cespitosum.* do. July. Marsh in Peru.
*hudsonianum.* Small do. June. Marsh in Stockbridge.

TRICOPHORUM. 3. 1.
*cyperinum.* Brown wool-heads. July. Low, wet places; ponds.

CAREX. 20. 3. Sedge-grass.
*sterilis.* do. May. Wet; about small streams.
*bromoides.* Bog do. do. Wet marshy places.
*cephalophora.* Head do. do. Along base of hills.
*rosea.* do. Low, wet places.
var. *radiata.* do.
*retroflexa.* do.
*stipata.* June. Wet places.
*multiflora.* do. Low land.
*sparganioides.* do.
*disperma.* do. Wet places about hills.
*setacea.* do. Upland meadows; Williamstown.
*paniculata.* do. Ponds and waters.
*teretiuscula.* do. do.
*muricata.*
var. *cephaloidea.* do. Upland meadows; hedges.
*deweyana.* do. Light soil; woods.
*trisperma.* do. Dried marshes.
*scoparia.* do. Pastures and upland meadows.
*lagopodioides.* do. Marshy places.
*straminea.* do. Upland meadows; hills.
*cristata.* do. do.
*stellulata.* do. Wet places.
*scirpoides.* do. do.
*curta.* Bog do. May. Marshy places.
*festucacea.* do. Meadows; hedges.
*teneræ.* June. do.

*novæangliæ.* New Eng. sedge. June. Saddle Mt. open woods.
*aurea.* June. Wet soil.
*acuta.* do. Low and wet places.
*cespitosa.* Turfy sedge. May. Along streams.
*aquatilis.* June. Marshy places.
*stricta.* do. do.
*crinita.* do. Wet places.
var. *paleacea.* do. Alluvial soil.
*polytrichoides.* Hair-like sedge. May. Cold, wet soil; meadows.
*pedunculata.* April. Light soil; woods.
*virescens.* Greenish sedge. June. Foot of hills;
*hirsuta.* June. Light soil; woods.
*formosa.* Beautiful sedge. June. Wet upland meadows; Stockbridge.
*gracillima.* June. Wet soil; hedges and meadows.
*torreyana.* do. Alluvial; Sheffield.
*pubescens.* Hairy sedge. do. Alluvial and upland meadows.
*varia.* May. Woods.
*marginata.* do. do.
*flava.* Yellow sedge. June. Wet places; high and low ground.
*tentaculata.* May. Wet do.
*folliculata.* Inflated sedge. May. do.
*xanthophysa.* June. Wet upland meadows.
*lupulina.* Hop-like sedge. June. Low wet places.
*davisii.* Dry sedge. June. Dry soil; Williamstown.
*collecta.* Bog sedge. May. Peru; wet.
*plantaginea.* Plaintain-leafed sedge. April. Dry woods and hedges.
*anceps.* Two-edged sedge. May. Woods and hedges.
*alba.*
var. *setifolia.* White sedge. May. Limestone Hills; dry; Pownal, Vt.
*oligocarpa.* Few-fruited sedge. May. Woods and hedges.
*conoidea.* Cone-fruited sedge. do. Alluvial soil; Sheffield.

*granularis.* do. do. upland meadows; moist soil.
*scabrata.* Rough-fruited sedge. June. beside hill brooks; light soil.
*blanda.* Smooth sedge. May. Alluvial, and upland meadow.
*laxiflora.* Loose-fruited sedge. May. Alluvial, and upland dry hedges.
*flexuosa.* May. Upland, moist meadows
*sylvatica.* do. Woods; light soil.
*tetanica.* do. Upland meadows; Stockbridge.
*miliacea.* do. Wet meadows; upland.
*umbellata.* Umbel-fruited. May. Light soil; hills; Monument Mt.
var. *vicina.* do. do. do. Stone Hill.
*pallescens.* Pale sedge. do. Alluvial and upland meadows; light soil.
*hystericina.* June. Wet places.
*limosa.* do. Marsh in Stockbridge and Becket.
var. *irrigua.* do.
var. *rariflora.* do.
var. *oblonga.* do.
*pseudo-cyperus.* False cyperus. June. Low, wet places; ponds; in clusters.
*hitchcockiana.* do. West side Saddle Mt.
*trichocarpa.* Hairy-fruited. June. Beside ditches; wet places.
*filiformis.* Slender. do. Marshes.
*ampullacea.* do. Beside ditches & in marshes.
*bullata.* Swollen-fruited. May. Low marshy ponds
*schweinitzii.* June. Sandy, wet places; Williamstown.
*retrorsa.* Inverse-fruited. do. Standing water; marshes.
*lacustris.* do. Low, wet, marshy.
*longirostris.* Long-bearded. May. Light soil; meadows; Sheffield.

## GRAMINÆ—(Grasses.)

CINNA. 1. 2.
*arundinacea.* Indian reed. July. Low grounds; woods.

ANTHOXANTHUM. 3. 1.
*odoratum.* Sweet vernal grass. June. Meadows; upland.

ORYZOPSIS. 3. 2.
*asperifolia.* Mountain rice. April. Dry woods on hills.
*melanocarpa.* Black-fruited do. June. Dry hills.

DIGITARIA. 3. 2.
*sanguinalis.* Finger-grass. Aug. Roads and fields; common.

LEERSIA. 3. 2.
*virginica.* Cut-grass. Aug. Wet; marshy.
*oryzoides.* do. do. do.

MUHLENBERGIA. 3. 2.
*erecta.* Dropseed-grass. July. Moist, low woods.

TRICHODIUM. 3. 2.
*laxiflora.* Thingrass. do. Dry fields.
*scabrum.* do. do. Dry, open woods.

AGROSTIS. 3. 2.
*vulgaris.* C. Redtop. do. Fields; light soil.
*alba.* White or yellow top. June. do.
*lateriflora.* Aug. Wet woods, swamps, &c.
*diffusa.* do. Fields.
*setosa.* do. do.
*sericea.* do. do.

ARUNDO. 3. 2.
*canadensis.* Reed-grass. July. Wet; marshy.
*phragmites.* Large do. Aug. Negro pond in Stoc.

PHLEUM. 3. 2.
*pratense.* C. Timothy grass. June. Fields.

ALOPECURUS. 3. 2.
*geniculatus.* True foxtail-grass. July. Wet, muddy bottoms.

PHALARIS. 3. 2.
*americana.* Wild Canary grass. July. Marshy.
var. *picta.* C. *Ribbon*-grass. July. Gardens; yards.

DACTYLIS. 3. 2.
*glomerata.* Orchard grass. June. About yards.

POA. 3. 2.
*annua.* Rooting grass. May. Gardens and fields.
*compressa.* Blue grass. July. Dry soil.
*pratensis.* Meadow grass. May. Fields; meadows.
*dentata.* Wet do. July. Muddy bottoms.
*aquatica.*
var. *americana.* Great do. Aug. Wet meadows.
*trivialis.* False redtop. July. Moist meadows.
*nemoralis.* do. June. do.
*nervata.* Large spear-grass. June. do.
*elongata.* July. Borders of wet meadows.
*canadensis.* do. do.
*quinquefida.* Huge redtop. July. Wet places.

AIRA. 3. 2.
*flexuosa.* Hair-grass. June. Dry, rocky hills.
*truncata.* do. do. Dry woods.

FESTUCA. 3. 2.
*elatior.* Fescue-grass. do. Wet meadows.
*pratensis.* do. do. Dry banks of meadows.
*tenella.* July. Sandy soil.
*fluitans.* Sarge do. do. Marshes and ditches.

DANTHONIA. 3. 2.
*spicata.* Wild oats. do. Sandy, dry hills.

TRISETUM. 3. 2.
*purpuroscens.* False hair-grass. June. High mead.

BROMUS. 3. 2.
*secalinus.* Chess. June. Cultivated fields.
*purgans.* False chess. May. Alluvial banks.
*ciliatus.* do. Aug. do. on streams.
*pubescens.* do. do.

ARRHENATHERUM. 3. 2.
*pennsylvanicum.* False oats. June. Light soil.

LOLIUM. 3. 2.
*perenne.* Darnel-grass. July. Roads and fields.

TRITICUM. 3. 2.
*æstivum.* C. Summer wheat. June. } Rarely grow-
*hybernum.* C. Winter wheat. do. } ing wild.
*repens.* Wheat or quack-grass. do. Gardens; fields

AVENA. 3. 2.
*sativa.* C. Oats. June. Rarely growing wild.
*sterilis.* C. Animated oats. July. Gardens.

SECALE. 3. 2.
*cereali.* Rye. June. Rarely growing wild.

ELYMUS. 3. 2.
*hystrix.* Lime-grass. July. } Alluvial banks; rivers.
*villosus.* Wild rye. do. }
*canadensis.* do. Lime-grass. July. do.
*virginicus.* do. June. do. and dry hills.
*glaucifolius.* Great wild rye. July. do.

PANICUM. 3. 2.
*crus-galli.* Cockfoot-grass. July. Cultivated fields
*latifolium.* Panic-grass. June. Open woods.
*capillare.* Hairy do. Aug. Cultivated fields.
*depauperatum.* Short do. July. Moist pastures.
*nitidum.* Slender do. June. Fields and pastures.
*glaucum.* Bottle-grass. July. Cultivated fields.
*italicum.* C. Large do. do. Gardens.

ANDROPOGON. 3. 2.
*purpurascens.* Broom-grass. Aug. Light san. soil.
*furcatum.* Forked spike-grass. do. Alluvial.
*nutans.* Beard-grass. Aug. do.

HORDEUM. 3. 2.
*vulgare.* C. Barley. June.

SORGHUM. 3. 2.
*saccharatum.* C. Broom-corn. Aug. Gardens and fields.
*vulgare.* C. Coffee-corn. do. Gardens.

ZEA. 20. 3.
*mays.* C. Indian corn. July.

## JUNCI—(Rush-grasses.)

JUNCUS. 6. 1.
*effusus.* Bull-rush. June. Wet places; low streams.
*setaceus.* Slender do. June. Low meadows.
*tenuis.* Common bog-rush. July. Low grounds.
*nodosus.* Tall bog-rush. do. Low meadows.
*bufonius.* Frog-rush. July. Low, sandy wet places.
*polycephalus.* Strong bog-rush. Aug. Wet past's.
*pilosus.* Hairy rush. April. Border of moist woods.

*campestris.* Large rush. May. Moist pastures.

ACORUS. 6. 1.

*calamus.* Sweet flag. May. Beside lowland brooks.

TRADESCANTIA. 6. 1.

*virginica.* Spider-wort. June. Gardens.

HELONIAS. 6. 3.

*dioica.* False unicorn-wort. May. Moist woods; Stockbridge.

VERATRUM. 6. 3.

*viride.* Itch-weed. June. Alluvial soil; also on high brooks.

ALISMA. 6. 3.

*plantago.* Water plaintain. July. Low, wet places.

SAGITTARIA. 20. 13.

*sagittifolia.* Arrow-head. June. Low brooks.
*latifolia.* do. do. do.
*heterophylla.* Diverse-leafed do. Aug. Pond on Taconic Mt.
*graminea.* Grassy do. do. do.

SCHEUZERIA. 6. 3.

*palustris.* Flowering rush. June. do.

ERIOCAULON. 20. 13.

*gnaphaloides.* Pipe-wort. July. do.

POTAMOGETON. 4. 4.

*natans.* Pond-weed. June. Aquatic; rivers, ponds.
*fluitans.* do. do. do. do.
*gramineum.* Grassy do. July. do. low, muddy bottoms; ponds.
*perfoliatum.* do. Ponds; Pittsfield.

## NAIADES—(Aquatics.)

CAULINIA. 20. 1.

*flexilis.* Water knot-grass. July. Immersed in standing pools.

CHARA. 20. 1.

*vulgaris.* Feather beds. July. Immersed in standing pools; Stockbridge.
*flexilis.* Stiff do. July. do. do.

NAJAS. 20. 1.

*canadensis.* Water-nymph. July. Immersed in ponds; Stockbridge.

LEMNA. 20. 2.

*polyrhiza.* Water flaxseed. July. Floating in standing water.

*minor.* Duck-meat. do. do.

*trisulca.* do. do. do. Negro Brook; Stockbridge.

## ASPHODELI.

HEMEROCALLIS. 6. 1.

*flava.* C. Garden lily. June. Gardens and yards.

*fulva.* C. do. do. do.

ALLIUM 6. 1.

*canadense.* Meadow garlic. June. Alluvial meadows; Sheffield.

*tricoccum.* Woods-garlic. do. Moist woods; low grounds. Injures milk of cows in spring.

*sativum.* C. Garlic. June. Gardens.

*cepa.* C. Onion. July. do.

*schœnoprasum.* C. Cives. July. Gardens.

## NARCISSI.

GALANTHUS. 6. 1.

*nivalis.* C. Snow-drop. April. Gardens.

HYPOXIS. 6. 1.

*erecta.* Star-grass. June. Sandy woods and fields.

PONTEDERIA. 6. 1.

*cordata.* Pickerel-weed. July. Ponds; Pittsfield; Stockbridge.

## HYDROCHARIDES.

VALLISNERIA. 21. 2.

*spiralis.* Tape-grass. Aug. Pond; Stockbridge.

PROSERPINACA. 3. 3.

*palustris.* Mermaid-weed. July. Pond; Pittsfield.

## ORCHIDEÆ—(Orchis-like.)

ORCHIS. 19. 1.

*spectabilis.* Orchis. May. Light soil; woods; hills.

*orbiculata.* Round-leafed do. May. do. do.

*bifolia.* May. Light soil; woods; hills.
*fimbriata.* June. Low, wet meadows
*tridentata.* July. Sandy places about springs
*psycodes.* Aug.
*bracteata.* Satyr. May. Light soil; woods.
*dilitata.* Great orchis. July. Low, sandy, wet places

NEOTTIA. 19. 1.
*æstivalis.* Ladies' tresses. June. Light soil; mead.
*cernua.* Nodding do. Aug. Wet, highland meadow
*pubescens.* Rattlesnake violet. Aug. Woods; moist soil; low.

ARETHUSA. 19. 1.
*ophioglossoides.* Snake-arethusa. July. Wet places
*verticillata.* Whorled do. June. Wet woods and meadows; Gt. Barrington.

CYMBYDIUM. 19. 1.
*pulchellum.* Grass pink. July. Low, marshy places
*coorllorhizum.* Corol-root. May. Open woods; hills; light soil.
*odontorhizum.* Corol-teeth. July. Low woods; wet
*hyemalis.* Adam-and-Eve plant. July. Woods, do.

MALAXIS. 19. 1.
*liliifolia.* Ivory blade. June. Low meadows and pastures.

CYPRIPEDIUM. 19. 2.
*spectabile.* Ladies' slipper. May. Light soil; woods; hills.
*pubescens.* Yellow do. May. Open woods on hills.
*humile.* Low do. June. do. light soil.

## LAURI.

LAURUS. 9. 1.
*benzoin.* Spice-bush. May. Low grounds.
*sassafras.* Sassafras. do. Hills. Small tree.

## THYMELEÆ.

DIRCA. 8. 1.
*palustris.* Moose or leather wood. April. Lowland of hills.

## ARISTOLOCHIÆ.

ASARUM. 11. 1.

*canadense.* White snake-root or wild ginger. Apr. Alluvial, or hills.

ARISTOLOCHIA. 19. 6.

*serpentaria.* C. Virginia snake-root. June. Garden of the Shakers in Hancock.

## ÆLEAGNI.

THESIUM. 5. 1.

*umbellatum.* False toad-flax. May. Wet grounds.

NYSSA. 21. 5.

*villosa.* Pepperidge. June. Wet woods; large tree.

## POLYGONEÆ.

POLYGONUM. 8. 4.

*aviculare.* Knot-grass. June. In fields.
*punctatum.* Water pepper. July. Wet, low places.
*coccineum.* Pond knot-grass. Aug. Pond in Pittsfield.
*persicaria.* Hearts-ease. June. Gardens and fields
*pensylvanicum.* Great knot-grass. July. Fields.
*sagittatum.* Heart-leafed do. Aug. Wet places.
*convolvulus.* Great birdweed. June. Hills; dry soil
*scandens.* Wild climbing buckwheat. July. Fields and gardens.
*arifolium.* Aug. Wet places.
*fogopyrum.* C. Buckwheat. Aug.
*orientale.* C. Prince's feather. do. Gardens.

RUMEX. 6. 3.

*acetosella.* Sorrel. May. Fields.
*crispus.* Dock. June. Cultivated fields; gardens.
*patientia.* Garden do June. do.

RHEUM. 9. 3.

*rhaponticum.* C. Pie rhubarb. June. Gardens.
*palmatum.* C. Rhubarb. do. do.

## ATRIPLICES.

BLITUM. 1. 2.

*capitatum.* Strawberry blite. June. About houses.

CHENOPODIUM. 5. 2.
*album.* Pigweed. July. Gardens and cultivat. fields.
*nigrum.* Rusty do. do. do.
*hybridum.* do. About houses.
*botrys.* Oak of Jerusalem. June. Sandy soil.

PHYTOLACCA. 10. 5.
*decandra.* Poke-weed. July. Roads and fields.

## NYCTAGINES—(Night Flowers.)

MIRABILIS. 5. 1.
*jalapa.* Four-o'clock. June. Gardens; for ornament
*longiflora.* C. do. do. do.

## AMARANTHI.

AMARANTHUS. 20. 5.
*oleraceus.* Pot amaranth. July. Gardens and yards
*retroflexus.* Rough do. Aug. do. and roads
and several exotic species in gardens.

GOMPHRENA. 5. 1.
*globosa.* Globe amaranth. Aug. Gardens.

## PLANTAGINES—(Plaintain.)

PLANTAGO. 4. 1.
*major.* Plaintain. July. Gardens, roads, &c.
*lanceolata.* Ribwort. do. Moist meadows and past.

## VITICES.

VERBENA. 14. 1.
*hastata.* Vervain. July. Roads and fields.
*urticifolia.* Nettle do. July. do.

## LYSIMACHIÆ.

LYSIMACHIA. 5. 1.
*racemosa.* Loose-strife. June. Low grounds.
*quadrifolia.* Four-leafed do. June. Open woods on hills.
*ciliata.* Hairy do. July. Low lands; hedges.
*capitata.* Headed do. June. Wet, low places.

TRIENTALIS. 7. 1.
*europæa.* Chick-wintergreen. May. About woods and hedges; light soil.

## PEDICULARIS

PEDICULARIS. 14. 2.
*canadensis.* Lousewort. May. Light soil; hills.

VERONICA. 2. 1.
*serpyllifolia.* Speedwell. do. Roads and fields.
*beccabunga.* Brooklime. June. Low, small, running brooks.
*arvensis.* Rock speedwell. May. Gardens and dry fields.
*peregrina.* Purslane do. do. do.
*scutellata.* Scullcap do. July. Sandy soil.
*virginica.* Culver's root. do. Alluvial meadows; in gardens also.

MELAMPYRUM. 14. 2.
*americanum.* Cow-wheat. June. Open woods.

OROBANCHE. 14. 2.
*uniflora.* Squaw-wort. June. Light soil; woods.
*americana.* Aug. Woods.
*virginiana.* Beech drops. July. Beech woods.

POLYGALA. 6.
*verticellata.* Wild snake-root. July. Woods.
*rubella.* do. do.
*sanguinea.* do. do.

## JASMINEÆ.

SYRINGA. 2. 1.
*vulgaris.* C. Lilac. May. Gardens and yards.

LIGUSTRUM. 2. 1.
*vulgare.* C. Prim. June. Yards.

FRAXINUS. 21. 2.
*acuminata.* White ash. May. Low grounds. Large tree.
*juglandifolia.* Swamp ash. May. Swamps. do.
*sambucifolia.* Black do. do. do. do.

## LABIATÆ—(Lipped Flowers.)

LYCOPUS. 2. 1.
*virginicus.* Water horehound; Bugleweed. July. Low, moist soil.
var. *quercifolius.*

MONARDA. 2. 1.
*didyma.* Oswego tea. July. Fields; light soil.
*oblongata.* do. do. do.
*clinopodia.* do. Hills; woods.

SALVIA. 2. 1.
*officinalis.* Sage. June. Gardens.
*sclara.* Clarry-rough sage. June. Gardens.

COLLINSONIA. 2. 1.
*canadensis.* Horse balm. Aug. Hedges; rich soil.

LAMIUM. 14. 1.
*amplexicaule.* Dead nettle. June. Moist places.

PYCNANTHEMUM. 14. 1.
*incanum.* Mountain mint. July. Light soil; hills.
*verticillatum.* Aug. do.

NEPETA. 14. 1.
*cataria.* Catnip or mint. July. Yards and gardens

HYSSOPUS. 14. 1.
*nepetoides.* Great hyssop. Aug. Hedges; san. soil
*scrophularifolius.* do. do.
*officinalis.* Garden hyssop. July. Gardens.

MENTHA. 14. 1.
*borealis.* Horse-mint. July. Sandy soil; fields.
*viridis.* Spear-mint. Aug. Low, wet places.
*piperita.* C. Pepper-mint. Aug. Gardens and fields; growing native.

STACHYS. 14. 1.
*aspera.* Hedge nettle. July. Moist soil; hedges.

GALEOPSIS. 14. 1.
*tetrahit.* Flowering nettle. July. Yards.

SATUREJA. 14. 1.
*hortensis.* C. Summer savoury. June. Gardens.

LEONURUS. 14. 1.
*cardiaca.* Mother-wort. July. About gardens.

MARRUBIUM. 14. 1.
*vulgare.* Horehound. do Sandy streets.

HEDEOMA. 14. 1.
*pulegioides.* Pennyroyal. do. Fields.

GLECHOMA. 14. 1.
*hederacea.* Gill-over-ground. May. About gardens and in light soil.

MELISSA. 14. 1.
*officinalis.* C. Balm. July. Gardens.

ORIGANUM. 14. 1.
*majorana.* C. Sweet marjoram. Aug. Gardens; Shakers', Hancock.

CLINOPODIUM. 14. 1.
*vulgare.* Field thyme. July. Gardens and fields.

PRUNELLA. 14. 1.
*pensylvanica.* Heal-all. June. Low meadows.

PHRYMA. 14. 1.
*leptostachia.* Lopseed. July. Along fences.

SCUTELLARIA. 14. 1.
*galericulata.* Scull-cap. do. Wet hedges.
*lateriflora.* do. do. do.

## SCROPHULARIÆ.

GRATIOLA. 2. 1.
*virginica.* Creeping hedge hyssop. June. Alluvial bank; Williamstown.

UTRICULARIA. 2. 1.
*vulgaris.* Bladder-wort. July. Aquatic; standing water.
*cornuta.* Leafless do. do. do. Pond on Taconic Mountain.
*gibba.* Small do. do. do. Pond in Pittsfield.

SCROPHULARIA. 14. 2.
*marilandica.* Fig-wort. July. Fields.

ANTIRRHINUM. 14. 2.
*linaria.* Snapdragon. do. Roads.

MIMULUS. 14. 2.
*ringens.* Monkey flower. do. Wet places.

DIGITALIS. 14. 2.
*purpurea.* C. Foxglove. do. Cultivated by Shakers, Hancock.

GERARDIA. 14. 2.
*flava.* False foxglove. July. Woods; about hills.
*glauca.* Large do. Aug. do do
*crinita.* Small do. do. Dry woods on hills.

## SOLANEÆ.

DATURA. 5. 1.
*stramonium.* Stramonium. Aug. Roads & gardens
*tatula.* Purple do. do. do.

CAPSICUM. 5. 1.
*annuum.* C. Red pepper. do. Gardens.

NICOTIANA. 5. 1.
*tabacum.* C. Tobacco. July. Cultivated in gardens

SOLANUM. 5. 1.
*dulcamarum.* Bittersweet. June. Hills and woods.
*nigrum.* Nightshade. July. About yards and fences
*tuberosum.* C. Potatoe. do. Fields.
*lycopersicum.* C. Tomatoe. July. Gardens.
*pseudocapsicum.* C. Jerusalem cherry. July. Ornamental flower; gardens.

VERBASCUM. 5. 1.
*thapsus.* Mullen. June. Roads and fields.

## BORRAGINEÆ.

CYNOGLOSSUM. 5. 1.
*officinale.* Hound-tongue. June. Roads; light soil

LITHOSPERMUM. 5. 1.
*arvense.* Stone-seed. May. Cultivated fields.

MYOSOTIS. 5. 1.
*palustris.* Scorpion weed. July. Hills.
*arvensis.*

BORAGO. 5. 1.
*officinalis.* C. Borage. do. Gardens.

SYMPHITUM. 5. 1.
*officinale.* C. Comfrey. do do.

HYDROPHYLLUM. 5. 1.
*virginicum.* Burr-flower. do. Hedges and woods.
*canadense.* Rough do. July. do. and woods.

## BIGNONIÆ.

CHELONE. 14. 2.
*glabra.* Snake-head. July. Low meadows and pastures.

MARTYNIA. 14. 2.
*proboscoidea.* Elephant plant. July. Cultivated in gardens.

PENSTEMON. 14. 2.
*pubescens.* Beard tongue. July. Foot of hills.

## CONVOLVULI—(Like Morning-glory.)

CONVOLVULUS. 5. 1.
*sepium.* Wild morning-glory. July Alluv. mead.
*arvensis.* Birdweed. July. Woods; high & low land
*batatus.* C. Sweet potatoe. July. Rarely cultivated
*purpurea.* C. Morning-glory. June. Gardens.

CUSCUTA. 5. 2.
*americana.* Dodder. Aug. Shaded banks.

## GENTIANEÆ.

GENTIANA. 5. 2.
*quinqueflora.* Blue gentian. Aug. Clayey ground
*saponaria.* Soap do. Sept. do
*crinita.* Fringed do. do. Wet soil; open woods.

MENYANTHES. 5. 1.
*trifoliata.* Buckbean. June. Stagnant waters; Pitts.

VILLARSIA. 5. 1.
*lacunosa.* Floating heart. July. Ponds in Becket, and on Taconic Mt.

## APOCYNEÆ.

APOCYNUM. 5. 2.
*cannabinum.* Indian hemp. July. Light soil; fields
*androsæmifolium.* Dog-bane. do. do

ASCLEPIAS. 19. 5.
*syriaca.* Milkweed. July. Fields.
*phytolaccoides.* do. Wet borders of woods.
*incarnata.* Red do. do. Low grounds; fields.
*quadrifolia.* Four-leafed do. June. Open woods.
*tuberosa.* Butterfly weed. July. Light, sandy so

## RHODODENDRÆ.

AZALEA. 5. 1.
*nudiflora.* Honeysuckle apple. May. Swamps.
*viscosa.* do June. do

KALMIA. 10. 1.
*latifolia.* Laurel. July. Light soil; woods & fields
*angustifolia.* Sheep do. June. Low ground; poison
*glauca.* Swamp do. May. Swamps; Hiusdale

LEDUM. 10. 1.
*latifolium.* Labrador tea. June. Low grounds; Pitts.

RHODORA. 10. 1.
*canadensis.* False honeysuckle. May. Low lands; Pittsfield.

## CAMPANULACEÆ.

CAMPANULA. 5. 1.
*rotundifolia.* Flax bell-flower. June. Sandy soil.
*perfoliata.* Clasping do. do. Light soil.
*speculum.* C. Venus' glass. do. Gardens.

LOBELIA. 5. 1.
*inflata.* Indian tobacco. July. Moist fields.
*pallida.* Slender lobelia. do. Fields.
*siphilitica.* Large do. do. Wet places.
*cardinalis.* Cardinal flower. Aug. Low pastures.

## ERICÆ.

OXYCOCCUS. 8. 1.
*macrocarpus.* Cranberry. Marshes; Stockbridge

PYROLA. 10. 1.
*rotundifolia.* Shin-leaf. June. Open woods.
*secunda.* One-sided do. do. do. light soil
*umbellata.* Prince's pine. July. do.

ARBUTUS. 10. 1.
*uva-ursi.* Bear-berry. June. Hill in W. Stockbr

GAULTHERIA. 10. 1.
*procumbens.* Wintergreen. July. Woods; hills
*hispidula.* Greeping do. May. Low woods.

ANDROMEDA. 10. 1.
*paniculata.* Whitebush. June. About hills.
*calyculata.* Leather-leaf. do. Taconic Mountain

EPIGÆA. 10. 1.
*repens.* Trailing arbutus. Ap. Sunny hills in woods

VACCINEUM. 10. 1.
*stamineum.* Deer-berry. May. Hills and woods.
*frondosum.* Blue-berry. do. Plains and hills.
*virgatum.* Blue whortleberry. May Woods.
*corymbosum.* High swamp do. do. Swamps.
*resinosum.* Black do. June. Hills.
*tenellum.* Low do. May. Low grounds

MONOTROPA. 10. 1.
*lanuginosa.* False beech-drops. June. Woods.
*uniflora.* Birds' nest. July. do.

## DIPSACEÆ.

DIPSACUS. 4. 1.
*sylvestris.* Wild teasel. July. Sandy, low grounds; Sheffield.
*fullonum.* C. Teasel. do. Cultivated for clothiers

CEPHALANTHUS. 4. 1.
*occidentalis.* Button-bush. July. Marshy waters;

## RUBIACEÆ.

GALIUM. 4. 1.
*lanceolatum.* Bed-straw. June. Low grounds;
*triflorum.* Slender do. do. Wet places.
*circæzans.* Cleavers. June. About moist woods.
*trifidum.* Small do. do. Wet places.
*asprellum.* Rough bed-straw. June. Swamps.
*aparine.* do. Woods; moist.

HOUSTONIA. 4. 1.
*coerulea.* Venus' pride. May. Alluvial meadows.

MITCHELLA. 4. 1.
*repens.* Squaw-berry. June. Moist woods.

## CAPRIFOLIA.

LINNÆA. 4. 1.
*borealis.* Twin-flower. June. Low places, shaded with evergreens.

LONICERA. 5. 1.
*dioica.* Honeysuckle. May. Foot of hills; meads.
*hirsuta.* Hairy do. June. Dry sandy, or rocky hills; Williamstown.
*sempervirens.* C. Garden do. May. Gardens.

XYLOSTEUM. 5. 1.
*ciliatum.* Fly honeysuckle. May. Low grounds.
*villosum.* Swamp twin-berry. do. Sphagnous places; Williamstown.

DIERVILLA. 5. 1.
*humilis.* Bush honeysuckle. June. Hills and low lands; dry, or moist.

CORNUS. 4. 1.
*canadensis.* Low dog-wood. May. Low woods.
*florida.* Box-wood. May. Low hills; small tree
*sanguinea.* Dog-wood. do. Wet places.
*sericea.* Silky do. June. do.
*alba.* White do. do. Hills.
*circinata.* Large-leafed do. June. Woods.
*paniculata.* Bush do. do. Wet soil.

SAMBUCUS. 5. 3.
*pubescens.* Red-berried elder. May. Hedges; hills
*canadensis.* Black-berried do. June. Common.

TRIOSTEUM. 5. 1.
*perfoliatum.* Fever-root. June. Moist woods.

VIBURNUM. 5. 3.
*lantanoides.* Hobble-bush. May. Lowland & hills
*lentago.* Sheep-berry. June. do do
*oxycoccus.* High cranberry. June. Beside streams
*acerifolium.* Dockmackie. do. Woods.
*dentatum.* do. Taconic Mt.
*nudum.* do. Hills.
*pyrifolium.* do. do.

## CICHORACEÆ.

LEONTODON. 18. 1.
*taraxacum.* Dandelion. May. Every where.

KRIGIA. 18. 1.
*virginica.* Dwarf do do. Monument Mountain

HIERACIUM. 18. 4.
*venosum.* Veined hawk-weed. July. Woods.
*paniculatum.* Branched do. July. Woods; hedges
*virgatum.* Thick do. do. do. sandy
*marianum.* do. do.

HYOSCERIS. 18. 1.
*prenanthoides.* Low lettuce. July. Gardens.

LACTUCA. 18. 1.
*elongata.* Wild lettuce. July. About fences.
*sativa.* C. Garden lettuce. July. Gardens.

PRENANTHES. 18. 1.
*alba.* Wild white lettuce. July. Clayey soil.
*altissima.* Giant do. Aug. do.

*virgata.* Wand-like do. Aug. Clayey soil.
*cordata.* Heart-leafed do. do. do.

SONCHUS. 18. 1.
*oloraceus.* Sow thistle. July Low land.
*leucophaeus.* do. do. do.

CICHORIUM. 18. 1.
*endivia.* C. Garden endive. July. Gardens; rare

## CINAROCEPHALÆ.

LIATRIS. 18. 1.
*spicata.* C. Gay-feather. Aug. Cultiva. by Shakers

CARTHAMUS. 18. 1.
*tinctorius.* C. Garden saffron. July. Gardens.
*cœrulius.* Blue do. July. Gardens.

CARDUUS. 48. 1.
*pectinatus.* C. Comb-thistle. July. do

CNICUS. 18. 1.
*lanceolatus.* Common thistle. June. Roads & fields
*arvensis.* Canada do. do. do. very troublesome.
*discolor.* Green do. July. Fields.
*atlissimus.* Giant thistle. Aug. Low land & mead.

ARCTIUM. 18. 1.
*lappa.* Burdock. Aug. Roads and fields.

ONOPORDON. 18. 1.
*acanthium.* Cotton thistle. July. Sandy road in Pittsfield.

CENTAUREA. 18. 3.
*cyaneus.* D. Bluebottle. June. Gardens.
*benedicta.* Blessed thistle. do. do.

CYNARA. 18. 1.
*scolymus.* C. Artichoke. July. Gardens.

## CORYMBIFERÆ.

BIDENS. 18. 3.
*frondosa.* Beggar-ticks. Aug. Fields; light soil.
*cernua.* Water do. do. Wet places.

CONYZA. 18. 2.
*marilandica.* Plowman's wort. Aug. Moist soil; *Lenox.*

CHRYSANTHEMUM. 18. 2.
*leucanthemum.* Ox-eyed daisy. June. Fields; troublesome plant in meadows.
*parthenium.* C. Feverfew. July. Gardens.
*coronarium.* Garden chrysanthum. July. Gardens

EUPATORIUM. 18. 2.
*sessilifolium.* Thoroughwort. Aug. Hills.
*purpureum.* Joe-pye-weed. do. Low grounds.
*verticillatum.* Queen of meadow. Aug. do.
*maculatum.* Rough do. Aug. Sandy, low ground
*ageratoides.* Smooth do. do. Fields and hedges

GNAPHALIUM. 18. 2.
*margaritaceum.* Life-everlasting. June. Fields.
*polycephalum.* Sweet do. June. Dry fields.
*decurrens.* Strong-scented do. July. Fields on hills
*uliginosum.* Creeping do. do. Road sides.
*plantagineum.* Early do. April. Fields; moist.
*dioicum.* Mouse-ear do. do. do.

ARTEMISIA. 18. 2.
*absinthium.* Wormwood. July. Sandy roads; N. Ashford.

TANACETUM. 18. 2.
*vulgare.* Tansy. July. Fields; gardens.

INULA. 18. 2.
*helenium.* Elecampane. July. Roads & fields; wet

ERIGERON. 18. 2.
*bellidifolium.* Flea-bane. May. Meadows & past's
*strigosum.* June. do.
*heterophyllum.* do. do.
*philadelphicum.* Aug. do.

SENECIO. 13. 2.
*aureus.* Rag-wort. June. Wet woods and fields.
*hieracifolius.* Fire-weed. June. Burnt fields; wet
*obovatus.* Water rag-wort. Aug. Marshy places.

TUSSILAGO. 18. 2.
*farfara.* Garden colts'-foot. April. On streams, and in gardens.

SOLIDAGO. 18. 2.
*canadensis.* Golden rod. July. About fences.
*altissima.* High do. Aug. do.
*serotina.* Smooth do. do. do.

*ciliaris.* Sleek do. July. Fields.
*lanceolata.* Grass-leafed do. Aug. Fields.
*cæsia.* do. do
*latifolia.* Broad-leafed do. do. Hills and woods
*bicolor.* White do. July. Light soil; woods, fields
*ulmifolia.* Elm-leafed do. Aug. Wet places.

ASTER. 18. 2.
*linarifolius.* Star-flower. do. Monument Mt
*multiflorus.* do. Fields.
*salicifolius.* do. Low grounds.
*novæ-angliæ.* New England do. Aug. Moist and dry soil; Stockbridge; Williamstown.
*cyaneus.* Aug. Dry hills and fields
*phlogifolius.* do. do
*undulatus.* do. do
*paniculatus.* do. Fields.
*cordifolius.* Heart-leafed do. do
*corymbosus.* do. Woods and fields
*macrophyllus.* do. Moist places; fields
*amplexicaulis.* do. Hills
*prenanthoides.* do. Woods.
*puniceus.* do. Wet places.
*acuminatus.* do. Woods; Saddle Mt.
*conyzoides.* do. Fields; Lenox.
*tradescanti.* do. About wet places
*recurvatus.* do. do
*divergens.* do. Low land.

HELENIUM. 18. 2.
*autumnale.* False sun-flower. Aug. Moist; Lenox

ANTHEMIS. 18. 2.
*achillea.* Mayweed. July. Roads.
*millefolia.* Yarrow. June. Fields.

HELIANTHUS. 18. 3.
*trachelifolius.* Wild sun-flower. July. Fields.
*decapetalus.* do. Aug. do
*annuus.* Garden do. July. Gardens.

CALENDULA. 18. 4.
*officinalis.* C. Pot marigold. July. Gardens.

RUDBECKIA. 18. 3.
*laciniata.* Cone-flower. July. Hedges; low land

## ARALIÆ.

PANAX. 5. 2.
*quinquefolia.* Ginseng. May. Woods; W'mstown
*trifolia.* Small ground-nut. May. do

ARALIA. 5. 5.
*nudicaulis.* Sarsaparilla. May. Woods.
*racemosa.* Spikenard. June. do.
*hispida.* Bristly do. July. Light soil; hedges; hills

## UMBELLIFERÆ.

ANGELICA. 5. 2.
*atropurpurea.* Angelica. June. Al. mead. Wms'n
*triquinata.* do. do. Dry hills; Hancock

CICUTA. 5. 2.
*maculata.* Wild parsnip; Musquash root. July. Low, wet soil, or alluv. Root, violent poison
*bulbifera.* Water hemlock. July. Wet, mar. places

CONIUM. 5. 2.
*maculatum.* Poison hemlock. do. Road sides

CARUM. 5. 2.
*carui.* C. Caraway. June. Gardens

CHÆROPHYLLUM. 5. 2.
*claytoni.* Sweet Cicely. June. Woods & be. fences
*canadensis.* Sison. June. Moist shaded places.

DAUCUS. 5. 2.
*carota.* C. Carrot. do. Gardens, & wild in fields

PASTINACA. 5. 2.
*sativa.* C. Parsnip. do. do do

HERACLEUM. 5. 2.
*lanatum.* Cow parsnip. June. Wet or dry mead.

HYDROCOTYLE. 5. 2.
*americana.* Water navelwort. May. Wet places

SMYRNIUM. 5. 2
*aureum.* Meadow parsnip. do Meadows

SIUM. 5. 2.
*latifolium.* Water parsnip. July. Wet, low, mar.
*lineare.* do. do. do

## PAPAVERACEÆ.

PAPAVER. 13. 1.
*somniferum.* C. Poppy. June. Gardens.

CHELIDONIUM. 13. 1.
*majus.* Calandine. May. Road sides.

CORYDALIS. 17. 6.
*cucullaria.* Colic weed. May. Woods; hedges; dry
*glauca.* Tall do. June. Dry hills.
*fungosa.* Climbing do. do. Rocky woods

FUMARIA. 17. 6.
*officinalis.* Fumitory. June. Great Barrington

NYMPHÆA. 13. 1.
*odorata.* White pond lily. do. Ponds; Stockbr.
*advena.* Yellow do. July. Standing waters

SARRACENIA. 13. 1.
*purpurea.* Sidesaddle flower. June. Marshes

SANGUINARIA. 13. 1.
*canadensis.* Blood-root. April. Light soil; woods

## RANUNCULACEÆ.

RANUNCULUS. 13. 13.
*acris.* Butter-cup, Yellow daisy. May. Up. mead
*abortivus.* Woods' do. May. Moist woods
*repens.* Creeping do. do. Low, wet places
*fluviatilis.* Hair-like do. do. Aquatic; waters.
*recurvatus.* June. Open woods & fields
*multifidus.* Large do. do. Pond holes; Gt. Bar
*hirsutus.* Rough do. July. Pastures; moist
*sceleratus.* Celery crowfoot. June. Marshes

ACTÆA. 13. 1.
*rubra.* Baneberry. May. Woods
*alba.* Necklace weed. do. do.
*racemosa.* C. Cohosh, Bugbane. July. Shak. Gar

AQUILEGIA. 13. 5.
*canadensis.* Columbine. May. Dry, rocky places
*vulgaris.* C. Garden do. June. Gardens

CLEMATIS. 13. 13.
*virginica.* Virgin's bower. July. Hedges & banks
*verticillata.* False do. May. Dry hills; beautiful

## MALVACEÆ.

MALVA. 16. 13.
*rotundifolia.* Ground mallows. June. About houses
*sylvestris.* Garden mallows. do. do.
*crispa.* Crisped leafed do. Aug. do.
*moschata.* Musk do. do. Gardens

SIDA. 16. 13.
*abutilon.* Indian mallows. July. Gardens

ALTHAEA. 16. 13.
*rosea.* Hollyhock. do. do.

## MAGNOLIÆ.

LIRIODENDRON. 13. 13.
*tulipfera.* Whitewood. June. Low grounds; lar. tr

## GERANIA.

GERANIUM. 16. 10.
*maculatum.* Wild geranium. May. Low meadows
*robertianum.* Roberts' herb. June. Shaded places

OXALIS. 10. 5.
*acetosella.* Wood sorrel. Fields; Saddle Mt.
*violacea.* Violet do. May. do. do.
*stricta.* Yellow do. July. Sandy fields; Sheffield

IMPATIENS. 5. 1.
*noli-tangere.* Jewel-weed. July. Low grounds
*biflora.* do. June. do.
*balsamina.* C. Green do. July. Gardens

TROPÆOLUM. 8. 1.
*majus.* Nastertion. do. do.

## BERBERIDES.

BERBERRIS. 6. 1.
*vulgaris.* C. Barberry. June. Cultivated; Lenox

HAMAMELIS. 4. 2.
*virginica.* Witch-hazel. Aug. Low grounds; hills

## TILIACEÆ.

TILIA. 13. 1.
*glabra.* Basswood. July. Low grounds; tree

## CISTI.

CISTUS. 13. 1.
*canadensis.* Rock-rose. June. Light soil; Sheffield
*corymbosus.* do do. Williamstown

VIOLA. 5. 1.
*rotundifolia.* Wild violet, yellow. Ap. Bor. of woods
*cucullata.* Blue do. April. Fields; moist
*palmata.* Hand-like do. May. Light soil; ab. wood
*ovata.* Low do. June. Sandy hills
*obliqua.* Low white do. do. Moist meadows
*villosa.* do. do.
*sororia.* do. do. and woods
*canadensis.* Wood do. May. Woods; moist
*striata.* do. Fields and meadows
*rostrata.* Braked do. do. do.; woods
*pubescens.* Hairy do. do. Woods
*tricolor.* C. Garden violet. May. Gardens

## RUTACEÆ.

RUTA. 10. 1.
*graveolens.* C. Rue. July. Gardens

## CAROPHYLLEÆ.

AGROSTEMMA. 10. 5.
*githago.* Cockle. May. Wheat fields
*coronaria.* C. Rose campion. Aug. Gardens

SAPONARIA. 10. 2.
*officinalis.* Soap-wort. Aug. Fields; Williamstown
*vaccaria.* do. July. do. do.

SILENE. 10. 3.
*antirrhina.* Catchfly. June. Fields
*pensylvanica.* Pink do. do. do. light soil

CERASTIUM. 10. 5.
*vulgatum.* Mouse-ear chickweed. May. Ab. fences

SPERGULA. 10. 5.
*arvensis.* Spurry. May. Fields

ARENARIA. 10. 3.
*serpyllifolia.* Sand-weed. June. San. places; Shef
*lateriflora.* do. do. Light soil about hills

LECHEA. 3. 3.
*major.* Pin-weed. July. Light soil; fields
*minor.* Small do. do. About woods

QUERIA. 3. 3.
*canadensis.* Fork chickweed. July. About woods.

MOLLUGO. 3. 3.
*verticillata.* Carpet weed. July. Gardens; Stockb

STELLARIA. 10. 3.
*media.* Chickweed. June. About gardens
*lanceolata.* Star-wort. do. Wet places
*longiflora.* Long-leafed do. June. do.

## SEMPERVIVÆ.

PENTHORUM. 10. 5.
*sedoides.* Orpine. July. Moist pastures

## SAXIFRAGÆ.

SAXIFRAGA. 10. 2.
*virginiensis.* Rock saxifrage. Ap. Dry, rocky pla
*pensylvanica.* Water do. May. Wet places

MITELLA. 10. 2.
*diphylla.* Currant-leaf. April. Light soil; woods
*prostrata.* do. May. Woods; Pittsfield

TIARELLA. 10. 2.
*cordifolia.* Mitre-wort. April. About woods

CHRYSOSPLENIUM. 8. 2.
*oppositifolium.* Golden saxifrage. Ap. Mar. places

## CACTI.

RIBES. 5. 1.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *floridum.* Wild black currant. | May. | Low, wet gr |
| *rigens.* | do. | Moun. & hills |
| *trifidum.* | do. | Low grounds |
| *triflorum.* | do. | do. |
| *cynosbasti.* Wild gooseberry. | do. | About fields |
| *lacustre.* Rough do. | June. | Saddle M |
| *grossularia.* C. English do. | do. | Gardens |
| *uva-crispi.* C. Smooth do. | do. | do. |

## PORTULACCEÆ.

PORTULACCA. 10. 10.
*oleracea.* Purslane. June. Gardens and fields

CLAYTONIA. 5. 1.
*spatulata.* Spring beauty. April. Hills and fields
*virginica.* do. do. do.

SCLERANTHUS. 10. 2.
*annuus.* Gravel chickweed. June. San. pla.; She

## ONAGRÆ.

CIRCÆA. 2. 1.
*lutetiana.* Enchanter's wand. July. Shaded places
*alpina.* do. June. do.

ISNARDIA. 4. 1.
*palustris.* Water purslane. Aug. Wet places

EPILOBIUM. 8. 1.
*spicatum.* Willow-herb. July. Meadows and hills
*lineare.* do. Wet places
*palustre.* Swamp do. do. do.
*coloratum.* Coloured do. do. Wet fields

OENOTHERA. 8. 1.
*biennis.* Scabish. July. Fields.
*chrysantha.* Dwarf do. June. Fields
*grandiflora.* C. Garden do. July. Gardens

MYRIOPHYLLUM. 20. 13.
*verticillatum.* Water milfoil. July. Pond in Becket

CALLITRICHE. 1. 2.
*vernia.* Water chickweed. May. Pools & run. wat
*intermedia.* July. do.

## SALICARIÆ.

LYTHRUM. 11. 1.
*verticillatum.* Swamp willow-herb. July. Low land

## ROSACEÆ.

ARONIA. 12. 5.
*botryapium.* Shad blow. May. Hills and woods
*arbutifolia.* Checkberry. do. do. & low grounds
*melanocarpa.* Bilberry. do. Mountains
*sanguinea.* June. Low ground; Pitts'd
*prunifolia* do. Saddle Mountain

CRATÆGUS. 12. 5.
*coccinea.* Thornbush. May. Low land
*crus-galli.* Thorn. do. do.
*punctata.* do. do. do.

SORBUS. 12. 5.
*americana.* Mountain ash. June. Hills; Saddle Mt

ROSA. 12. 13.
*corymbosa.* Swamp rose. July. Swamps
*parviflora.* Small rose. do Base of hills
*rubiginosa.* Sweet briar. do. Light soil; Adams

AGRIMONIA. 11. 2.
*eupatoria.* Agrimony. do. Light soil; roads

FRAGARIA. 12. 13.
*virginiana.* Strawberry. May. Fields & meadows
*canadensis.* Woods do. do. Woods

DALIBARDA. 12. 12.
*fragarioides.* Dry strawberry. May. Moist places
*repens.* June. do. Pittsfield

COMARUM. 12. 13.
*palustre.* Marsh five-finger. June. Wet pla.; Stoc

POTENTILLA. 12. 13.
*canadensis.* Five-finger. May. Fields
*argentea.* Silver do. June. Roads
*norwegica.* Cinquefoil. do. Moist fields
*tridentata.* do. June. Rocky or light soil; College, and Taconic Mt.
*fruticosa.* } Bush do. June. Wet places; Pitts-
*floribunda.* } field; Stockbridge
*conferiflora.* Hairy do. July. Pastures

GEUM. 12. 13.
*rivale.* Avens-root. May. Wet, marshy
*virginianum.* do. July. Moist places
*strictum.* do. Wet meadows

RUBUS. 12. 13.
*strigosus.* Red raspberry. May. Fields
*occidentalis.* Black do. do. do.
*saxatilis.* Dwarf do. do. Wet places
*trivialis.* Dewberry. Jnne. Fields
*villosus.* Blackberry. do. Fields and woods
*odoratus.* English raspberry. June. Fields, hills
*obovalis.* do. Wet places.

SPIRÆA. 12. 15.
*alba.* Meadow-bush. June. Wet places
*tomentosa.* Steeple-bush. July. Taconic Mt

PRUNUS. 12. 1.
*canadensis.* Pigeon cherry. May. Fields & woods
*virginiana.* Wild black do. do. do.
*serotina.* Choke do. June. Meadows; pastures
*spinosa.* Horse plum. do. Hills

## LEGUMINOSÆ.

CASSIA. 10. 1.
*marilandica.* Wild senna. Aug. Low, san. Wm'n

BAPTISIA. 10. 1.
*tinctoria.* Wild indigo. July. Woods on dry hills

LUPINUS. 17. 10.
*perennis.* Wild lupine. May. Light soil; woods

MELILOTUS. 17. 10.
*vulgaris.* Mililot. June. Gardens and old fields

MEDICAGO. 17. 10.
*scutellata.* C. Snail shell. July. Gaidens.

TRIFOLIUM. 17. 10.
*pratense.* Red clover. June. Fields
*repens.* White do. do. do.
*arvense.* Sheep do. Aug. do. and dry woods

ROBINIA. 27. 10.
*pseudo-acacia.* Locust tree. June. Cult. for shade

PISUM. 17. 10.
*sativum.* C. Pea. June. Fields

VICIA. 17. 10.
*sativa.* Tare. June. Wheat fields; Williamstown

GLYCINE. 17. 10.
*apios.* Ground-nut. Aug. Low grounds; twining

LESPEDEZA. 17. 10.
*polystachia.* Bush clover. July. Woods; light soil
*capitata.* do. do.
*sessilifolia.* do. do.

HEDYSARUM. 17. 10.
*canadense.* Bush trefoil. do. Woods; hills
*viridiflorum.* Aug. do.
*rotundifolium.* Round-leafed do. July. do.

*cuspidatum.* July. Woods; hills
*glutinosum.* Aug. do.
*ciliare.* do. do.
*acuminatum.* do. do.

## TEREBINTACEÆ.

RHUS. 5. 3.
*typhinum.* Sumach. July. Hills; fields
*glabrum.* Smooth do. do. do.
*copallinum.* Winged do. do. do.
*vernix.* Poison do. do. Swamps; very poison
*aromaticum.* Fetid do. do. Hills; dry soil
*toxicodendron.* Running do. Mercury. July. Fields

JUGLANS. 20. 13.
*cinerea.* Butternut. May. Alluvial, and woods
*squamosa.* Shag walnut. May. Hills
*amara.* Bitter-nut. May. Alluvial; Sheffield
*porcina.* Pig-nut. do. do. and hills

XANTHOXYLUM. 21. 5.
*frazineum.* Prickly ash. May. Low grounds

## RHAMNI.

STAPHYLEA. 5. 3.
*trifolia.* Bladder-nut. May. Light soil; alluvial

ILEX. 4. 4.
*canadensis.* Mountain holly. May. Hills & mar

CEANOTHUS. 5. 1.
*americanus.* Jersey tea. July. About hills

PRINOS. 6. 1.
*verticillatus.* Winter-berry. do. About pond holes

RHAMNUS. 5. 1.
*alnifolius.* Dwarf alder. May. Marshes
*catharticus.* C. Buckthorn. do. Williamstown

CELASTRUS. 5. 1.
*scandens.* Staff-tree, twining. June. Low grounds

## EUPHORBIÆ.

EUPHORBIA. 11. 3.
*hypericifolia.* Spurge. July. Roads
*depressa.* do. do. do

ACALYPHA. 20. 16.
*virginica.* Low mercury. Aug. Sandy alluvion

## CUCURBITACEÆ.

MOMORDICA. 20. 16.
*echinata.* Wild cucumber. July. Alluvial and gard

SICIOS. 20. 16.
*angulata.* C. Single-seed do. July. About houses

## URTICÆ.

URTICA. 20. 4.
*dioica.* Nettle. June. Fences; hedges
*procera.* do. do. do.
*canadensis.* Wide-leafed do. July. About woods
*pumila.* Stingless do. July. Shaded. moist places
*cylindrica.* False do. do. About hedges; alluvial

CANNABIS. 21. 5.
*sativa.* Hemp. Aug. Fields and houses

HUMULUS. 21. 5.
*lupulus.* Hop. do. Allu. mead. Wmsn. and Shef.

AMBROSIA. 20. 5.
*elatior.* Hog-weed, Wild wormwood. Aug. Cu. fie
*trifida.* Aug. Sandy places

XANTHIUM. 20. 4.
*strumarium.* Clotbur. Aug. Light soil; Hanceck

## AMENTACEÆ.

MYRICA. 21. 4.
*gale.* Sweet gale. July. About ponds & marshes; Taconic Mt.
*cerifera.* Bayberry. May. Shef.; allnv.; small tree

POPULUS. 21. 13.
*tremuloides.* American aspen. April. Woods; tree
*grandidentata.* Poplar. April. Fields; large tree
*angulata.* Balm of Gilead. do. Alluvial; large tree
*balsamifera.* Balsam poplar. April. Banks of Hoosick; Wmsn.
*dilatata.* Lombardy do. April. Cultivat. for shade

SALIX. 21. 2.
*conifera.* Rose willow. April. Low grounds; brooks
*myricoides.* do. do.

*prinoides.* April. Low grounds; brooks
*tristis.* River willow. May. Banks of streams
*nigra.* do. do. tree
*lucida.* Shining do. do. do.
*rigida.* Stiff-leafed do. April. do.
*grisea.* Silky-leafed do. do. do. Wmsn
*vitellina.* Yellow-leafed do. May. Banks of Hoosic
*babylonica.* Weeping do. May. Houses, for shade

BETULA. 20. 13.
*papyracea.* White birch. do. Hills and woods
*lenta.* Spice do. do. do.
*excelsa.* Yellow do. do. do.
*populifolia.* Poplar do. May. Hills & plains; Shef
*rubra,* Red do. do. Hills and woods
*glandulosa.* Shrub do. do. Marsh; Stockbridge

ALNUS. 20. 4.
*serrulata.* Black alder. April. Low grounds

CARPINUS. 20. 13.
*americana.* Hornbeam. May. Beside streams

OSTRYA. 20. 13.
*virginica.* Hop-hornbeam. do. Low grounds

FAGUS. 20. 13.
*ferruginea.* Beech. May. Woods, hills, and plains

CASTANEA. 20. 13.
*americana.* Chesnut. do. Hills and plains

CORYLUS. 50. 13.
*americana.* Hazle-nut. April Base of hills
*rostrata.* Braked do. do. do.

PLATANUS. 20. 13.
*occidentalis.* Buttonwood. Aug. Along streams

COMPTONIA. 20. 2.
*asplenifolia.* Sweet fern. May. Hills and plains

QUERCUS. 20. 13.
*discolor.* Black oak. do. do.
*alba.* White do. do. do.
*tinctoria.* Quercitron do. do. do.
*coccinea.* Red oak. do. do.
*rubra.* do. do. do.
*montana.* Chesnut do. do. do.
*ilicifolia.* Shrub do. do. Taconic Mt.

ULMUS. 5. 2.

*americana.* Common elm. April. Lowlands & pla
*fulva.* Slippery do. do. do.

## CONIFERÆ.

PINUS. 20. 16.

*strobus.* White pine. May. Plains and low land
*rigida.* Pitch do. do. do.
*canadensis.* Hemlock. do. do. and hills
*balsamea.* Balsam fir. do. Mountains
*alba.* Single spruce. June. do. and hills
*nigra.* Black do. do. do. do.
*fraseri.* Fraser's pine. do. Saddle Mt.; beautiful
*pendula.* Hackmatack. do. Marshes
*resinosa.* Yellow pine. do. Plains

JUNIPERUS. 21. 16.

*prostrata.* Am. savin. May. Sandy hills
*virginiana.* White cedar. do. do.

TAXUS. 21. 16.

*canadensis.* Dwarf yew. May. Woods; Wmsn

## FILICES—(Ferns.)

POLYPODIUM. 22. 1.

*vulgare.* Polypod. June. Low land; wet
*hexagonopterum.* Woods do. July. Wet woods
*connectile.* do.
*calcareum.* do.

ONOCLEA. 22. 1.

*sensibilis.* Sensitive fern. Aug. Low grounds
*nodulosa.* July. do.

PTERIS. 22. 1.

*aqualina.* Brake. July. Fields and woods; dry

ASPIDIUM. 22. 1.

*acrostichoides.* Brake. June. Light soil; woods
*novæboracense.* do. do.
*marginale.* July. Wet woods
*intermedium.* do. do.
*spinulosum.* do. Wet, marshy
*dilatatum.* do. Hills
*filix-mas.* Male-fern. do. do.
*bulbiferum.* do. Woods
*angustum.* do. do.

LYGODIUM. 23. 1.
*palmatum.* Climbing fern. June. Becket

ASPLENIUM. 22. 1.
*rhizophyllum.* Rooting fern. do. Rocks
*angustifolium.* Spleen-wort. do. Fences; dry
*ebeneum.* June. Rocks
*melanocaulon.* do. do.
*ruta-muraria.* do. do.
*thelipteroides.* do. Pastures

ADIANTUM. 22. 1.
*pedatum.* Maiden-hair. July. Woods

DICKSONIA. 22. 1.
*pilosiuscula.* Hairy fern. June. Fields and woods

OSMUNDA. 22. 1.
*cinnamomea.* Cinnamon brake. May. Wet patur
*interrupta.* do. do.
*regalis.* Regal fern. Aug. Wet; marshy

BOTRYCHIUM. 22. 1.
*obliquum.* Grape do. June. Woods
*virginicum.* do. do.
*gracile.* July. do.

LYCOPODIUM. 22. 1.
*complanatum.* Ground pine. Aug. Light soil; woods
*clavatum.* Club do. do. do. hills
*dendroideum.* Tree do. do. do.
*rupestre.* Festoon do. do. Taconic Mt.

EQUISETUM. 22. 1.
*arvense.* Horse-tail. April. Low grounds
*sylvaticum.* do. do. Light soil; meadows
*uliginosum.* Branched do. May. Alluvial hollows
*scirpoidea.* do. do. banks
*hyemale.* Scouring rush. June. Woods; hedges

## MUSCI—(Mosses.)

SPHAGNUM. 22. 2.
*gracile.* Marsh moss. Sphagnous swamps
*recurvum.* do. do.
*latifolium.* do. do.

GYMNOSTOMUM. 22. 2.
*prorepens.* On trees.
*pyriforme.* Low, clayey grounds

PTERIGONIUM. 22. 2.
*intricatum.* On trees.

GRIMMIA. 22. 2.
*microda.* Minute moss. Pastures and meadows

DICRANUM. 21. 2.
*orthocarpon.* Woods.
*glaucum.* do.
*cerviculatum.* do. clayey.
*scoparium.* do. and on dead trees.
*heteromallum.* Oct. Hoosic Mountain.
*purpureum.* Clayey.

WEISSIA. 22. 2.
*viridula.* Small moss.

TRICHOSTOMUM. 22. 1.
*pallidum.* Yellow moss. Woods.

POLYTRICHUM. 22. 1.
*perigoniale.* Hair moss. Fields; cold soil.
*undulatum.* do. Woods.
*brachyphyllum.* do.
*juniperinum.* Saddle Mountain; hills.

HEDWIDGIA. 22. 2,
*filiformis.* Rocks.

PTERIGNANDRUM. 22. 2.
*trichomitrion.* Trees.

ORTHOTRICHUM. 22. 2.
*anomalum.* Trees.

NECKERA.
*pennata.* Trees.
*viticulare.* About rocks.

CLIMACIUM.
*americanum.* True moss. Low soil.

BERTRAMIA.
*crispa.* Woods, on rocks.
*longiseta.* Open woods.

LESKEA.
*acuminata.* Hoosic Mountain.

MNIUM.
*cuspidatum.* Woods and fields.
*cespitium.* do.

*roseum.* Woods.

BRYUM.
*pyriforme.* Woods.
*argenteum.* Clay woods.
*nutans.* Woods.
*conoideum.* do.

DIPLOCOMIUM.
*longisetum.* Fields.

HYPNUM.
*flexilis.* Marshes.
*serratifolium.* Woods.
*crista-castrensis.* Woods; logs.
*plumosum.* do.
*minutulum.* Rocks.
*cupressiforme.* Rotten logs.
*rutabulum.* Rocks along brooks.
*recurvens.* Woods.
*imponens.* Logs.
*delicatulum.* do.
*triquetrum.* Woods.
*denticulatum.* do.
*serpens.* Creeping moss. Woods.
*denticulatum.* do.
*tamariscum.* Trees.
*sylvaticum.* Woods.
*acuminatum.* do.
*salebrosum.* do.
*torreyana.* do.
*chrysostomum.* Rocks.

FUNARIA.
*flavicans.* Woods.
*hygrometrica.* Fields.

FONTINALIS.
*antepyratica.* Wood in water.

LESKEA.
*adnata.* Woods.

## HEPATICÆ.

JUNGERMANIA. 22. 3.
*bidentata.* False moss. Woods.

*tomentosa.* Decayed trees.
and many more species.

MARCHANTIA. 22. 3.
*polymorpha.* Brook liverwort. Wet places.
*cornica.* Stone Hill.
*hemispherica.* Great Barrington.

RICCIA. 22. 3.
*fluitans.* Forked stems. Standing waters.
*natans.* Floating liverwort. do.

ALGÆ—(Sea-weeds and Lichens.)

CONSERVA. 22. 4. Frog-spittle. Several species.

GYROPHORA. 22. 5.
*vellea.* Leather lichen. Rocks.
*papulosa.* do.
*muhlenbergia.* do.

ENDOCARPON. 22. 5.
*miniatum.* Rock lichen. Rocks of limestone.

PARMELIA. Many species; and also of
PELTIDEA, USNEA, and BÆMYCES.

FUNGI—(Funguses.)

AGARICUS. 22. 6.
*coccineus.*
*papyraceus.*
*campestris*, and many others.

BOLETUS. 22. 6.
*igniarius.* Touchwood. Trees.
*versicolor.* Wood.
*communis.*
*lutans.*

MORELLUS. 22. 6.
*impudicus.* Fetid fungus. Ground beside bushes.

HYDNUM. 22. 6.

LYCOPERDON. 22. 6.
*bovista.* Puff-ball.
*pyriforme.* Pear-like do.

SPHÆRIA. 22. 6. Several species.

UREDO. 22. 6.

*flava.* Yellow puff. On elder.

XYLOSTROMA. 22. 6.

*gigantum.* Punk-paper or leather. In decaying wood.

SCLEROTIUM. 22. 6.

*clavis.* Ergot or spur-rye. On rye-heads.

The great beautv and variegated colours of the mountain scenery of New England in autumn, have often been remarked. In Berkshire County this is seen in all its perfection. The great variety of forest trees and shrubs present almost as many different colours, when the foliage begins to decay. Instead of the *dull brown* or *russet* hue of the country, so commonly spoken of by European writers, in their own countries, our forests present an endless variety of colours and shades and hues. This is to be attributed to the vastly greater variety and species of our trees and shrubs. It was remarked by Mirbel of France, that the species of the oak alone, in America, were more numerous than all the species of trees in Europe. The general reason of the difference of the colour of the foliage in summer and autumn, seems to be well understood. In the former season, the leaves contain a greater quantity of *mucilaginous* and *saccharine* matter, and the *alkali* in them gives the beautiful green to their colouring matter; in the latter season, the *acid* principle predominates, and uniting with the colouring matter, produces the red colour, modified by the peculiar properties of the plant, and yielding to the eye the ever-changing variety of hue. This grand display of beauty and variety of autumnal foliage, must ever be attended with the affecting reflection that it is the certain precursor, like the *hectic* glow on the cheek of beauty, of immediate dissolution.

PRODUCTS OF CULTIVATION.—The plants cultivated on the farms are Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, Oats, Barley, Flax, Peas, Beans, Potatoes, Buckwheat, Pumpkins, Hops, for the Brewery in Pittsfield; Peppermint, in Lanesborough, Pittsfield and Lenox, for the distilla-

tion of Essence of Peppermint; Hemp, in a few instances; Turnips; Mangel Wurtzel; Clover, red and white; Timothy grass (Phleum pratense) falsely called Foxtail grass, &c. Flax is cultivated sparingly, and chiefly for domestic manufacture, the low price of cotton goods rendering it unprofitable.

Of the grains raised for bread-corn, a much less quantity, except of Indian corn, is produced than formerly. The cultivation of wheat and rye has been gradually diminishing for years, and has been considerably reduced since the opening of the Western Canal. Of rye, a sufficient quantity is raised *for the use of the inhabitants in the middle and western part of the County*, but not enough to supply the eastern and higher part, where the grains are not easily cultivated.

Of wheat, considerable quantities were formerly carried to the market towns along the Hudson River, as Hudson, Kinderhook, Albany, and Troy; but for several years much more wheat flour has been introduced into the County than has been carried out of it. The Castor Oil plant has been slightly cultivated.

Of *Fruits*, the chief is the Apple, of which great quantities are raised; and the varieties, well known over the country, are raised in great perfection. Among those cultivated more extensively for the last thirty years, are the Greening, Spitzenberg, Red-streak, Yellow Sweet, Pomroyal, Paremain, Seek-no-further, &c. The Quince is raised with difficulty; the Peach rarely; the Pear is more common, but not abundant; the *Plum* has nearly disappeared, the trees gradually dying from diseased excrescences along the limbs. This disease has affected all the kinds of plum cultivated, and particularly the *white* and *blue* (large) plum, the Damson, and the red (horse) plum. Although the Peach may be cultivated by great care and attention, and the annual replenishing of the trees, it is palpably evident that the soil is not congenial to its production, like that in many parts of Connecticut, or of the western part of New York, or of the more southern States. The same remark may be made respecting the Quince, although it is a more hardy plant. The Apple, Pear, and Plum, may be cultivated with comparative ease and little expense.

In this County, the apple-tree has not suffered from the ravages of the *canker worm*, commonly so called, and whose transformations are now so well understood, as in many other parts of the country. This caterpillar makes its appearance in greater or less number every year; but it has rarely been found necessary to make much effort for its destruction. The tearing down of its *webs*, or the firing of gunpowder upon them, is the more common method. As the animal is found in autumn near the root of the trees, swine are also found very useful in destroying it.

The *Potatoe* forms an important article for the food of the people; for the fattening of beef and pork; for the nourishment of horses and sheep, and for the domestic manufacture of starch. It is cultivated in great quantity and with great ease, being relatively a cheap and safe crop. It is curious to remark the change in articles of food. The parents of some now on the stage who annually raise hundreds of bushels of potatoes, and consider them most important and essential as an article of food, were accustomed to raise only a few bushels, and thought them scarcely fit food for the brutes. The *quality* has indeed much improved, as the *quantity* has increased.

The *planting* of Indian corn is commonly between the 10th and 25th of May, and the greater part about the latter day. On some interval, as well as some higher and moist soils, it is a week or ten days later. This vegetable has often been nearly destroyed by a small yellow worm, about an inch long, or a shorter and larger brown worm, consuming the seed before it vegetated, and as soon as germination commenced. In 1802 many fields of it were thus destroyed. In 1826 the farmers also suffered much from these insects and the drought. Great crops of Indian corn are produced in warm summers with great ease. Many fields in the County, almost annually, are estimated to yield from 90 to 100 bushels the acre; in a few instances, more. The *sowing* of spring wheat and rye, is done as early as the season will admit. The *winter* wheat and rye is sown much earlier than formerly, especially on the lighter soils; even as early as August, or the fore part

of September, from the advantage to the crops by an earlier germination.

The productions of *Horticulture* are chiefly of the most common and useful kinds. Rare and delicate plants, or the more hardy of the delicate plants, are reared in a few gardens. The yards of the more opulent and tasteful are ornamented with the *mock* orange or false syringa, (Philadelphus) the Lilac (Syringa vulgaris and alba), the Pine, Spruce, Fir, Larch, Mountain Ash, Weeping Willow, Yellow Willow. The Lombardy Poplar has been cultivated to considerable extent as shade trees, but is now giving place to the indigenous and far more beautiful Maple and Elm. The Locust (Robinia pseudo-acacia) is often seen, introduced from the south, a short-lived tree, and much less firm and durable than in its indigenous soils. The elegant locust (Robinia hispida) is much more rarely cultivated. The *Horse* Chesnut is also introduced, and the Snow-ball. Some varieties of the Grape have been cultivated in a few gardens in the middle and southern towns. The experiment has shown the difficulty, and has also shown that it may be overcome. The Grape will not be cultivated to any considerable extent.

Berkshire is an Agricultural County. Besides the production of the grains, &c. already mentioned, the attention of farmers is directed to the raising of horses and mules to some extent, for the southern market; to the fattening of beef and pork; to the production of butter and cheese, of which, and especially of the latter, great quantities are carried to the New York market; and latterly, to the raising of sheep, to supply the demands of the woollen factories.

The Berkshire Agricultural Society, the oldest in our country, was incorporated in 1811; and designed to promote friendship and good feelings among the citizens, as well as improvement and enterprize in the cultivation of the soil. The Hon. Elkanah Watson, then a resident in the County, was particularly active and influential in its formation. It holds its annual meeting, cattle show and fair, in the beginning of October annually, at Pittsfield, and has exerted a powerful and beneficial influence upon the agricultural interests of the County. It has called the attention of farmers more

particularly to the better management of their farms; to the greater production and more beneficial employment of manures; to the rotation of crops, and the adaptation of some soils to particular kinds of vegetables; to the improvement of all kinds of *live*-stock, especially of working cattle, cows, horses, and sheep; to the perfecting of butter, cheese, &c.; to the best mode of managing sheep, and particularly those imported from Europe, and the like. By its annual premiums, it excites emulation, and promotes a spirit of enterprize and activity among agriculturalists. By the same means, it awakens kindred feelings among the females, and improves various and important articles of household manufacture.

A similar Society, located at Stockbridge, and rather more limited in its operations, was formed in 1824, and extended to other towns in 1826. It is aiding in the advancement of the agricultural interests, and contributing to swell the amount of effort in this great and fundamental business of life and civilization. It is much to be desired that similar societies should be formed in every town in the County.

As the farmers are generally the owners of the soil, even tenants being relatively uncommon, they form a large body of independent yeomanry, deeply interested in the improvement of their farms and the industrious habits of the citizens—one of the grand supports of our free and happy government.

The butter and cheese annually made in the middle and north parts of the County, is of great amount. Dairies of from fifteen to thirty cows are common—sometimes of fifty, and occasionally of seventy.

Flocks of sheep, from three to five hundred, are not very frequent; but we occasionally find one of eight hundred or a thousand. The number of sheep is unknown; but there were said to be about 8000 in the town of Lanesborough alone, in 1826.

Considerable pork is yearly fattened; and beef cattle are to some extent driven to the east and west to market.

Besides the *barn manure*, ashes and Plaister of Paris are employed. The latter has been used to considerable *extent*. Many tons are annually brought into the

County at the present time. On Indian Corn, and particularly Clover, it is found to exert a very beneficial influence. Ashes might be advantageously employed to a much greater extent. Their beneficial use in gardens, in preventing ravages of worms and insects, has been well proved. The formation of *composts*, for manure, has been tried to considerable extent. In several towns *marl* is found, which might be made highly useful. The removal of the light vegetable mould from *marshes* might be greatly increased, and upon the light, sandy soils, prove highly advantageous. The *theory* of the operation of Plaister is not yet fully settled. That of Sir H. Davy is probable, that it operates as the food of plants; which, however, take up only a small quantity. Where a considerable quantity, like 6 to 10 bushels to the acre, has in two or three years been used, it must cease to be of any apparent use; because the soil has already more than the plants can take up for their nourishment. Lime has been only sparingly used as a manure in the County; and *salt* still less. The farmer will find a great amount of valuable facts in the oration of Col. McKay, before the Agricultural Society in 1825, and published by the Society.

The timber for common fences is the chesnut, black ash, hemlock, spruce, &c. The common kind of fence for farms is the Virginia or zigzag, post and rail, and post and board. More stone wall is laid than formerly, and merits attention from the farmer, where stone is readily procured. A very durable fence is the post and rail on a wall two feet high; as it is less heaved by frost, and as the posts, supported by the stone, do not decay like those in the ground. About houses are various kinds of more elegant fence.

According to the census of 1820, 7568 of the population of Berkshire were engaged in agriculture, or nearly one-fourth of the whole.

MANUFACTURES.—Berkshire seems designed to become a great manufacturing district. The facilities for the application of water power in Adams, Pittsfield, Dalton, Lee, Otis, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington, are very great. In most of the towns, there are several sites upon which manufacturing establishments may be

erected, especially by conducting the water a moderate distance in a canal. The attention of capitalists and enterprizing men has been gradually directed to this subject, and at this time there is an increasing impression of the importance of manufactures to the prosperity of the County. Besides domestic manufactures, and the common arts and trades which are so far pursued as the wants of the citizens require, and which give employment and support to the shoemaker, blacksmith, tailor, hatter, cabinet-maker, house carpenter and joiner, tanner and currier, saddle and harness maker, cooper, clothier, brickmaker, mason, printer, stone-cutter, potter, goldsmith, &c., and the manufacture to some extent of axes, scythes, rakes, axe-helves, scythe-snaths, wooden boxes and dishes, ploughs, hoes, waggons, carts, and the like, there are important and extensive manufacturing establishments of cotton, in Adams, Pittsfield, and Stockbridge; of woollens, such as satinetts, in Adams and Stockbridge; of broadcloths, satinetts, and kerseymeres, in Pittsfield; of paper, in Dalton and Lee; of gunpowder and *chair* timber, in Lee; of chaises, hacks, and coaches, and of muskets, in Pittsfield. There is also a considerable manufacture of mill-stones in Pittsfield. Distilleries of cider brandy are found in most towns, to the general injury of the inhabitants; and of whiskey and beer, in Pittsfield; and also of essence of peppermint, to a great amount. Linseed oil is manufactured in Adams and Stockbridge.

A cotton factory is erected in Williamstown; and a woollen factory, designed to be raised to a very extensive establishment, has begun its operations at Pontoosuck, in Pittsfield. *Tin* is manufactured into *tin-ware*, in large quantities in Pittsfield and Lenox. A *furnace* for castings of iron, in pots, kettles, stoves, aqueduct pipes, &c. &c. is established in Lenox; one or two exist in Lee; a small one in Adams, and another in Tyringham; and *forges* for the manufacture of bar-iron from *pigs*, in Sheffield, Lee, New Marlborough, &c. Manufactories of machinery are established in Adams and Pittsfield.

By the census of 1820, 2019 of the population of the County were engaged in manufactures. The number is now much greater; perhaps double.

The formation of *charcoal* for the supply of the furnaces, forges, blacksmiths, and other business, gives support to many inhabitants. The immense quantity of wood upon the hills will make this an easy and important business for many years to come. Indeed, since the introduction of stoves for the economy of fuel, it is thought by many judicious men, that wood is, in many towns, produced in greater proportion than it is annually consumed. The economy of fuel has, from the relative cheapness of wood, attracted but little attention. Very obvious and important improvements in the use of fuel, may easily be made; and as more land is reduced to cultivation, will be brought into practice. Though much has been said and written to show the economy of burning *dried* and housed wood, there is no doubt, that except for stoves and in summer, the economy depends wholly on the judgment and care of the individual. It is often the case that a cord of green wood is made to yield sufficient heat for a quarter longer time than a cord of dry, owing to the improvident use of the dry. Indeed, it does not admit of doubt, that the language of many Farmers and Mechanics is true, that in winter a less number of cords of green wood answers their purpose, than of the dried and seasoned, even when the wood is perfectly sound. The judicious man and housewife will easily determine, by a little observation, which is the cheaper fuel for their families and business.

Pit-coal, or Liverpool coal, is introduced into the County in only a few instances, and for some particular manufactures. The vicinity of the Hudson, and the ease of transportation, will render the introduction of the *Lehigh anthracite*, or other coal, in the market, an easy matter, whenever it shall become cheaper fuel than wood. It is already used in a few manufacturing establishments.

ROADS, &c.—The roads were originally laid, as they must be in new countries, over the higher grounds, in order to avoid the mud and marshes of the lower. In many cases they are exceedingly *tortuous*, following the old *Indian paths*, or those made by the *cows* of the first settlers. Some of them have been straighten-

ed and shortened, or turned over lower ground to avoid the hills. Much improvement, however, remains to be made. The sooner it is done, the better it will be for the inhabitants, as it will prevent the erection of dwellings which will eventually be somewhat remote from the roads. There can be no doubt, that the next fifty years will witness great changes in the *County* roads. The County road, south and north, from Sheffield, through Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Lenox, Pittsfield, Lanesborough, and New Ashford, to Williamstown, is one of great importance. It passes through the most thickly settled and pleasant part of the County. It was much used by emigrants from Connecticut to Vermont, when the latter State was settled; and it is now used by the inhabitants more than any other road which runs in this direction. In consequence of the hills in the middle and north parts of the County, however, travellers from Connecticut and the south-eastern section of New York, have been accustomed for several years to leave this road in Great Barrington, passing through West Stockbridge into the State of New York, and by the way of Albany to the north-east parts of New York and to Vermont.

These hills may to a great extent be avoided, and in some instances entirely escaped, by following the vallies round them. Travellers have long since learned that the distance over hills is equal to that round them in most cases. An almost level road, or one on which the ascents are so long as to be nearly imperceptible, may be easily wrought through the whole extent of the County; and must be wrought before the travel from the south will return to it. Considerable improvements have indeed recently been made on this route; but many remain to be made hereafter. It has long been a fixed opinion of those acquainted with the ground, that the road may be carried round the south-east point of Monument mountain at a far less elevation than is now done. Between Stockbridge and Lenox, and between Lenox and Pittsfield, the road may be straightened in several places, and at the same time rendered more level. Above Pittsfield some hills would be avoided by turning the road westerly along the margin of Pontoosuc river, and thence along the margin of Laneshe-

rough Pond. Another improvement, further north, would be made by leaving the present road near the Episcopal church in Lanesborough, and going up the stream which empties into Lanesborough Pond, to near its head; thence to the rise of Green river, and along the latter stream to the tavern stand near the meeting-house in New Ashford. By these alterations, several hundred feet of ascent and descent might be saved in the distance of a few miles. The County is greatly interested in effecting these alterations. They will doubtless be accomplished before many years have passed.

The road which parts from this at Great Barrington, and passes up Williams' river to West Stockbridge, by passing round through New Canaan, New Lebanon, and Stephentown, in New York, opens a communication with the north part of the County through the Hancock valley. The road is nearly level, and is less circuitous than would at first be supposed.

Another road, nearly level, to intersect with the principal south and north County road at Stockbridge, might be constructed from the east part of Sheffield up through the west part of New Marlborough, along Konkapot river, and thence along Muddy Brook, where the ascent of Monument mountain would be entirely avoided. This route would particularly accommodate travellers from Connecticut, who should come up the valley of Waterbury river to Norfolk, and wish to pass through this County to Vermont and Lake Champlain.

In the year 1800, a turnpike road was granted, from the line of Connecticut through Otis, Becket, Lee, Lenox, Richmond, and Hancock, to the line of New York, near the Shaker Village in New Lebanon. Though this was given up as a turnpike, from Whiton's furnace in Lee to the line of New York, in 1820, yet the road remains and is useful to the citizens. By following up this road to Lenox furnace, and then the Housatonic valley through the east part of Lenox and Pittsfield, thence striking for the head waters of Hoosic, south branch, and pursuing that branch through Cheshire to the villages in Adams, a road comparatively level may be opened through the eastern section of the County. Through Lee and the towns northward, it would be over a very pleasant tract of country, and should a rail-road

cross the County, would be a road of much importance for business.

These routes have been noticed, from the great consequence of the subject. The first is of the greatest importance, and the County is deeply interested in improving and perfecting it.

When the County was first settled, and for many years afterwards, the only road from the east, over the Green mountain range, was from Blanford, in the County of Hampden, through the south-east part of Otis, the north part of Sandisfield, and through Tyringham to Great Barrington. This was called the great road from Boston to Albany. It was much travelled in the French wars, and in the war of the Revolution. The troops and stores of Major Gen. Amherst went over it to the capture of Ticonderoga. On it the captured army of Burgoyne passed from Saratoga to Boston. He was lodged one night in Tyringham.

About thirty years since, attempts were made in several instances to improve by turnpikes the rough crooked roads which had been cut across this range further north, and which were designed at first to accommodate the immediate inhabitants in passing from one neighborhood or town to another. These were wrought over Becket, Peru, and Florida, and opened intercourse with Springfield, Northampton, and Greenfield, and through them, with other places eastward. The Hoosic Mountain Turnpike from Colerain through Florida to the western foot of the Hoosic mountain, was granted in March, 1797; and the Williamstown Turnpike, extending this through Adams and Williamstown to the line of New York, was granted two years afterwards. The ascent and descent of Hoosic mountain are steep and difficult. To avoid this part of the road, travellers in some instances go farther south, and pass over the mountains in Savoy.

The road from Deerfield through Plainfield, Savoy, Cheshire, Lanesborough, and Hancock, to the line of New York, though not a turnpike, is of much importance.

The turnpike road from Northampton to Pittsfield, through Peru, Hinsdale, and Dalton, was granted in 1797; and extended through the west part of Pittsfield

and Hancock, to the line of New York, in 1798. Though the hills are many and high on this route, it is a road of great travel. It is said it might be laid on ground less elevated by several hundred feet, and a considerable improvement is now making upon it. A portion of the travel from Northampton has recently passed through Windsor to Pittsfield. A more easy road might be laid from Northampton to the South Village in Adams, thence to the North Village, Williamstown, and the State of New York.

A turnpike was granted in 1800 from the east line of Russel, through parts of Russel, Blanford, and Chester, in Hampden County, and through the towns of Becket and Washington, to the east line of Pittsfield; and a turnpike to intersect this in Becket, running through the east parish of Granville, and through Blanford, was granted in 1801. The latter has been discontinued, and the former from Chester northwards. From Chester to the turnpike road from Connecticut line in the west part of Becket, usually called the Farmington River Turnpike, a turnpike by the name of Becket Turnpike, was granted in 1803. The Housatonic Turnpike, running from the Farmington River Turnpike at Whiton's furnace in Lee, through Stockbridge and West Stockbridge, was granted in 1806. This, with the turnpikes with which it is connected, opens intercourse with Springfield, and is a road of great and increasing travel. A turnpike is now making from the west part of Becket to Blanford, and thence to Russel, which it is said will shorten the distance to Springfield a few miles.

Besides the preceding turnpikes, a turnpike was granted in 1801 through Sheffield and Egremont, which is connected with important turnpikes in Connecticut and the State of New York.

A turnpike from Connecticut line through part of Sandisfield, through New Marlborough and part of Great Barrington, to the south line of Stockbridge, was granted in 1803. Though this was discontinued in 1828 as a turnpike, it is a County road of considerable importance, and is connected both with the old road through Colebrook and Winsted, and the Sandy Brook Turnpike, a pretty favorable communication with Hartford.

The Great Barrington and Alford Turnpike, running through parts of those towns, was granted in 1811.

The Pontoosuc Turnpike was incorporated in 1826, to open a communication between Springfield and Pittsfield, through parts of Dalton, Hinsdale, Washington, Middlefield, and Becket, to Chester. As it is to pass from the east part of Pittsfield through the low parts of those towns and round the hills, the ascents will in no place, it is said, exceed five degrees, although it crosses the eastern range of hills. This road will greatly facilitate the communication between the middle part of the County and the middle part of the Commonwealth, through Springfield. A part of this road is located along the line of the proposed *rail-road.*

On the principal turnpikes and roads in the County, lines of stages are established, by which travellers are accommodated in passing in almost every direction. Some of these are ***daily*** lines; others go and return thrice or twice in the week. In most of the towns, and in most of the important villages, post-offices are established.

The following table contains the names of these offices, the time of their establishment, distance from Boston and from Washington in miles, on the nearest mail routes, the names of the present post-masters, and the nett amount of postage received in the year ending March 31, 1828:—

| Names. | Estab. | Dis. fr. B | Dis. fr. W | Postmasters. | Postage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sheffield. | 1794 | 146 | 347 | Edward F Ensign. | 216,04 |
| Egremont. | 1817 | 144 | 353 | Jesse Squier. | 75,41 |
| Hollenbeck's (E.) | 1824 | 145 | 351 | Joseph Benjamin. | 36,11 |
| Great Barrington. | 1797 | 141 | 352 | Moses Hopkins. | 234,61 |
| Van Deusenville (G.B | 1829 | 138 | 355 | Isaac Van Deusen. | |
| Alford. | 1829 | 142 | 358 | Daniel Barrett. | |
| Stockbridge. | 1792 | 133 | 360 | Thaddeus Pomeroy | 315,90 |
| West Stockbridge. | 1804 | 138 | 362 | Amasa Spencer. | 116.07 |
| W. Stockbr. Centre. | 1829 | 142 | 362 | Benjamin H. Lewis. | |
| Tyringham | 1820 | 137 | 366 | Josiah C Robinson. | 25,77 |
| South Tyringham. | 1824 | 141 | 370 | Samuel C Brewer. | 34.56 |
| New Marlborough. | 1806 | 146 | 373 | Aretas Rising. | 80,20 |
| Hartsville (N. M.) | 1828 | 143 | 370 | William Edwards. | |
| Sandisfield. | 1805 | 141 | 378 | George Hull | 58,35 |
| New Boston [S.] | 1825 | 136 | 373 | Lyman Brown. | 9,55 |
| Becket. | 1812 | 118 | 375 | Eliada Kingsley. | 31,52 |
| West Becket | 1824 | 123 | 370 | Wolcott Chaffee. | 26,20 |
| Otis. | 1817 | 123 | 375 | Basil Seymour. | 54,55 |
| East Otis. | 1828 | 126 | 378 | Elijah Owens. | |
| Richmond. | 1806 | 139 | 366 | Asa Cone. | 83,62 |
| Lenox. | 1800 | 134 | 366 | William P. Walker. | 242,50 |
| Pittsfield. | 1793 | 133 | 373 | Joshua Danforth. | 911,63 |
| Dalton. | 1812 | 127 | 379 | John Chamberlain | 64,92 |
| Washington. | 1826 | 125 | 382 | Wm C. Ballantine | 17,40 |
| Lee. | 1807 | 129 | 364 | Hubbard Bartlett | 228,97 |
| South Lee. | 1826 | 132 | 361 | Thomas Hurlburt. | 84,56 |
| Lanesborough. | 1801 | 135 | 378 | Richard Whitney | 150,93 |
| Cheshire. | 1810 | 130 | 383 | Noble K. Wolcott. | 39,42 |
| Stafford's Hill. | 1827 | 126 | 387 | David Smith. | |
| Williamstown. | 1798 | 135 | 382 | Gershom T. Bulkley | 294,56 |
| South Williamstown | 1827 | 139 | 378 | John P. Jordan. | 15,71 |
| Hancock. | 1815 | 141 | 367 | Philander H.Thomas | 29,00 |
| Peru. | 1816 | 121 | 385 | Jonathan Nash | 49,48 |
| Windsor. | 1827 | 121 | 385 | Hezekiah M Wells. | 18,30 |
| Hinsdale. | 1804 | 124 | 382 | Monroe Emmons. | 85,55 |
| Adams. | 1810 | 130 | 387 | Peter Briggs | 73,51 |
| North Adams. | 1813 | 130 | 387 | William E Brayton | 157,11 |
| Savoy. | 1817 | 121 | 393 | Liberty Bowker. | 23,68 |
| Florida. | 1823 | 123 | 394 | Luke Rice. | 11,95 |

RAIL-ROAD.—The project of constructing a Rail-road from Boston to the Hudson River, while it excites much interest generally, is specially interesting to the citizens of Berkshire, as it must cross this County. Three routes have been surveyed. The *northern* route crosses the east range of hills in the north part of Florida, at an elevation of 1886 feet above the Connecticut river at Rock Ferry, in South Hadley, and 2022 feet above the *marsh* at Boston. The *middle* route crosses the same range in Savoy, at an elevation of 1903 feet above the Connecticut river in South Hadley. The *southern* route passes from Springfield through Westfield and Chester to Washington, and crosses the *range* at an elevation of 1440 feet above the Connecticut at Springfield, and 1504 feet above the *marsh* near Boston; passes through Hinsdale, Dalton, Pittsfield, Richmond, and West Stockbridge, to the line of New York in Canaan, and thence to Albany. This route is considered far preferable, and the distance from Boston to Albany, as accurately measured, is one hundred and ninety-eight miles. A diversion from this route in Dalton, going down the Housatonic to Lee, and thence to West Stockbridge, is objected to, on the ground that it renders the road too circuitous; and another diversion, which some have more seriously contemplated, and which has been partly surveyed, leaving this route in Chester, and uniting with it near the line of New York, passing through Becket, Lee, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge, is thought less practicable, unless machinery should be used to aid carriages in passing the mountain, as the ascent and descent of it are more rapid, and as the elevation of Viets' summit in Becket is 1680 feet above the Connecticut at Springfield, and 1717 feet above the Hudson at Albany. Should machinery be introduced, this route might be taken, as it is considerably nearer than the route through Washington, and as the ground in Lee, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge, is uncommonly favorable for the construction of a rail-road. A more feasible route over the mountains than this through Becket, may perhaps be found a few miles south. Further examinations will settle this point. The *southern* route which has been surveyed through, beginning at Greenbush, where the Hudson is 27 feet below the Con-

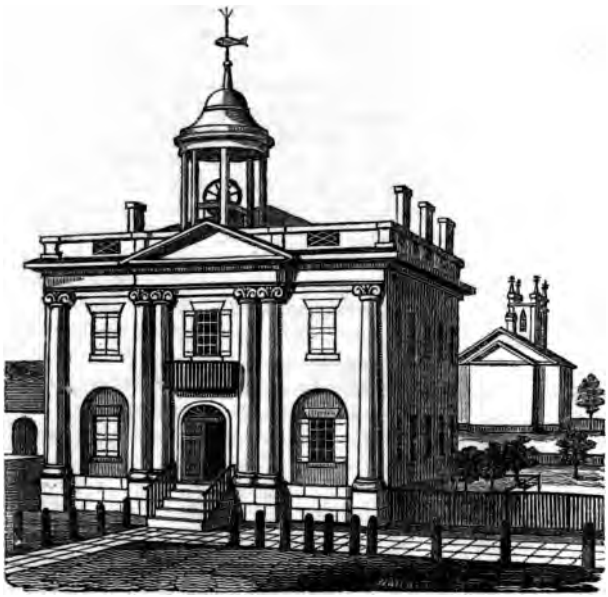
necticut at Springfield, and 27 feet above the *marsh* at Boston, passes in Canaan, N. Y. over an elevation of 924 feet above the Hudson; thence through W. Stockbridge to Richmond, (near Rev. Mr. Dwight's) at an elevation of 1147 above the Hudson; thence through Pittsfield, (near White's mill pond) at an elevation of 965 feet above the Hudson; thence through Dalton, at an elevation of 1220 feet (against Dalton meeting-house) above the Hudson; thence through Hinsdale to the Washington summit, 1440 feet above the Connecticut river at Springfield, and 1477 feet above the Hudson at Greenbush. As the *route* pursues a winding course to avoid hills and valleys, the *railway* would in much of its course be nearly level, and may be considered as *level*, as is well known, if the ascent does not exceed twenty-seven and a half feet in a mile. On a railroad, a horse will draw eight tons, where the ascent a mile is from 25 to 36 feet. The estimated cost of the railway is near $16,500 a mile. The subject is one of high interest, and deserves the candid consideration of our citizens. The spring which it would give to enterprize, and the quantity of goods and merchandize, of produce and manufactures, of marble, iron, lime, and lumber, which would be transported upon it, cannot easily be calculated. See "Report of the Board of Directors of Internal Improvements," &c., made to the Legislature of Massachusetts, January, 1829.

COUNTY BUILDINGS, COURTS, &c.—Before the formation of this County in 1761, the Courts for the whole original county of Hampshire were held at Springfield, the present shire town of Hampden County; and the Supreme Courts for this County were afterwards held at the same place, until 1783, when, by an order of the Legislature, suits were removed to the Supreme Judicial Court established in Berkshire. But at the time of the formation it was enacted, that an Inferior Court of Common Pleas, and a Court of General Sessions of the Peace should be held, at certain fixed times, at the North Parish in Sheffield, which in the course of the same year was incorporated as a distinct town, by the name of Great Barrington, and at Pontoosuc, now Pitts-

field. Great Barrington was selected as the shire town of the County for the time being; where county buildings were subsequently erected. This place was more convenient then than any other for the population in the southern section of the County, and the northern section was but partially settled. But in the course of a few years, as the settlements progressed in this section, it became difficult for the people as a body to attend the Courts here; and in Nov. 1782, upon the petition of some representatives from the County, the Legislature appointed a committee to take a general view of Berkshire, and to determine where the Courts should be held in future. The committee visited and examined the County, conversed with gentlemen of intelligence in different places, and met a delegation from twenty towns at Stockbridge, in which the subject of the future seat of the Courts was largely discussed. From all they could learn, the committee were of the opinion that Lenox, being the most central town, was the proper place for holding the Courts; and that a Court-House and Gaol ought to be erected, somewhere between the meeting-house in that town, and the dwelling house of Capt. Charles Dibble; and reported accordingly to the Legislature. The report was accepted, and an act passed, directing the Courts to be holden at Lenox, after the first day of January, 1784. The prospect then was that the Courts would be quietly removed to this place. Events, however, transpired afterwards, which showed that the act of the Legislature was not universally acceptable to the people.

In May, 1783, a petition was set on foot at an adjourned Court of Sessions in Great Barrington, (at which, it is said, only six justices were present) praying the General Assembly to postpone the removal of the Courts to Lenox indefinitely, on the alleged ground that the County was unable to erect the necessary buildings. The result of this petition in the House of Assembly, was the postponement of the removal of the Courts to Lenox for two years only, until the first of January, 1786.

In the autumn of 1784, an effort was made to have the Courts held alternately at Great Barrington and *Lanesborough;* and in 1785, a greater effort was made



BERKSHIRE COURT-HOUSE.—LENOX.

to have the Court of Common Pleas held alternately at Stockbridge and Pittsfield, to have the Supreme Court held at Stockbridge, and that established as the shire town; both of which failed.

In the beginning of 1787, an order was issued by the Legislature, for the Court of Common Pleas to be held at Lenox in February, and the Supreme Court in May of that year; and in 1790, the prisoners were ordered to be removed from the gaol in Great Barrington to Lenox, as soon as the gaol in Lenox should be prepared.

County buildings were begun here in the spring of 1788. The gaol was probably finished in the course of 1790, and the Court House (now so well known as the old Court House) in 1791 or 2. The expense of these buildings was £3441 5*s*. 3*d*.; towards which, individuals in Lenox advanced in building materials, £800.

Since 1787, the Judicial Courts for the County have been held uniformly at Lenox, though in two instances since that period, the community have been agitated by attempts to change the seat of the Courts.

In 1812, several inhabitants of Pittsfield petitioned that the County seat might be removed to that town. This discussion excited much agitation and feeling, and was not finally disposed of by the Legislature until February, 1815. After this, in the course of the same year, the new Court House, County House and Gaol in Lenox were commenced, and completed in 1816, at an expense of $26,059; $3,500 of which were paid by inhabitants of Lenox. In the close of 1824 and beginning of 1825, another unsuccessful attempt was made to remove the Courts to Pittsfield. The local jealousies which have grown out of these attempts, it is hoped, will now cease, and the great object be to elevate each town and the whole County. The county buildings are very near the centre of the County and the centre of population. The Court House is a large and elegant brick edifice, two stories, having, beside the large and convenient court-room, offices for the accommodation of the Probate Court, the Grand Juries, the Clerk of the Courts, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds for the Middle District, &c. The County house is a substan-

tial wooden building, three stories, to the rear of which the gaol is attached. The latter building is of stone.

The *Supreme Judicial Court*, which commenced its sittings in this County in 1783, is composed of judges selected from the whole State. Two inhabitants of Berkshire only have been judges of it, viz. Theodore Sedgwick of Stockbridge, from 1802 until his death, Jan. 24, 1813; and Daniel Dewey, of Williamstown, from February 1814 until his death, May 26, 1815.

This Court holds two sessions in the County, in a year; the *Law Term* on the 2d Tuesday in September, and the *Nisi Prius Terms*, on the 10th Tuesday after the first Tuesday in March, and on the Tuesday following the *Law Term*, just mentioned.

Prior to 1761, John Ashley of Sheffield, Ephraim Williams of Stockbridge, and, according to tradition, Timothy Woodbridge, of the same town, were judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Hampshire County. The following is a list of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Berkshire, from 1761 until 1811, the Court consisting sometimes of three judges, and sometimes of four, three constituting a quorum.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JOSEPH DWIGHT, of Gt. Barr., from | 1761 | to 1765 |
| WILLIAM WILLIAMS, of Pittsfield, | do. | 1781 |
| Timothy Woodbridge, of Stockbridge, | do. | 1774 |
| John Ashley, of Sheffield, - - | 1765 | 1781 |
| Perez Marsh, of Dalton, - - - | do. | 1781 |
| WILLIAM WHITING, of G. Barrington, | 1781 | 1787 |
| JAHLEEL WOODBRIDGE, of Stock., | do. | 1795 |
| James Barker, of Cheshire, - - | do. | |
| Charles Goodrich, of Pittsfield, - - | 1784 | 1788 |
| Elijah Dwight, of Great Barrington, - | 1787 | 1794 |
| THOMPSON J. SKINNER, of Williamstown, | 1788<br>1792 | 1791<br>1807 |
| JOHN BACON, of Stockbridge, - - | 1789 | 1811 |
| Nathaniel Bishop, of Richmond, - - | 1795 | do. |
| David Noble, of Williamstown, - - - | do. | 1803 |
| William Walker, of Lenox, - - - | 1807 | 1811 |

Though judicial proceedings were suspended in Berkshire from about 1774 until 1780, yet the judges in commission in 1774, are supposed to have continued in of-

fice during this period. The judges whose names are in large capitals, are supposed to have presided in this Court, Joseph Dwight from 1761 until 1765, William Williams from 1765 until 1781, William Whiting from 1781 until 1787, Jahleel Woodbridge from 1787 until 1795, Thompson J. Skinner from 1795 to 1807. In 1807, John Bacon was expressly appointed chief judge, and presided until the abolition of the Court in 1811.

In 1811, the State was districted, and a Circuit Court of Common Pleas established for each district. The western district comprehended Worcester, Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Berkshire Counties.

*Chief Judges of this Court.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ezekiel Bacon, of Pittsfield, | from 1811 | to 1814 |
| John Hooker, of Springfield, | 1814 | 1820 |

*Associate Judges.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jonathan Leavit, of Greenfield, - | 1811 | 1820 |
| Edward Bangs, of Worcester, - - | 1811 | 1818 |
| Solomon Strong, of Leominster, - | 1818 | 1820 |

In 1820 this Court was abolished, and a Court of Common Pleas established for the State.

*Judges of this Court.*

Artemas Ward, of Boston, Chief Justice.
Solomon Strong, of Leominster,
John W. Williams, of Taunton, } Associate Justices.
Samuel Howe, of Northampton,

Judge Howe died at Boston, Jan. 20, 1828, and was succeeded by David Cummins, of Salem.

This Court holds three sessions in the County annually, commencing on the fourth Monday in February, June, and October.

The *Court of Sessions*, having charge of the internal concerns of the County, such as laying out roads, granting licences, assessing taxes, &c., has been variously constituted. From 1761 until 1807, it consisted of all the justices of the peace in the County; or of so many of them as should assemble at the time and place appointed for holding the courts. From 1807 to 1809, it consisted of one chief justice and four associate justices.

Nathaniel Bishop, of Richmond, 1807,
Joshua Danforth, of Pittsfield, 1808,
John Bacon, of Stockbridge, 1809,
} Chief Justices

Joshua Danforth, in 1807,
Samuel H. Wheeler, of Lanesborough, from 1807 until 1809,
Adonijah Bidwell, of Tyringham, do.
Azariah Eggleston, of Lenox, in 1808,
William Walker, do. 1809,
} Associate Justices.

From 1809 to 1811, the powers of this court were transferred to the Court of Common Pleas; and thence until 1814, the Court was organized as in 1807.

*Justices during the latter period.*

Nathaniel Bishop, of Richmond, Chief Justice.
William Walker, of Lenox,
Joshua Danforth, of Pittsfield,
Azariah Eggleston, of Lenox,
Adonijah Bidwell, of Tyringham,
} Associate Justices.

From 1814 until 1817, the duties of this Court were performed by the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, assisted by two Session Justices from the County.

*Session Justices.*

Wolcott Hubbell, of Lanesborough,
Joseph Whiton, of Lee.

In 1819, a Court of Sessions was established, which continued until 1828.

William P. Walker, of Lenox, Chief Justice.
Wolcott Hubbell, of Lanesborough, from 1819 until 1827,
Joseph Whiton, of Lee, from 1819 to 1828
Luther Washburn, of Pittsfield, 1827 1828
} Associate Justices.

In February, 1826, all the authority of the Court of Sessions, relative to highways, was transferred to the Commissioners of highways.

*Board of Commissioners.*

George N. Briggs, of Lanesborough, Chairman.
John Churchill, of Pittsfield,
David Brown, of Cheshire,
Timothy Wainwright, of Gt. B.
} Associate Comm'rs.

In the winter of 1828, the Legislature repealed the law establishing the Court of Sessions and the law creating Commissioners of highways, and transferred the powers of both these bodies to a Board of County Commissioners.

*Board.*

Luther Washburn, of Pittsfield, Chairman.
Peter Briggs, of Adams, } Associate Comm'rs.
Lyman Brown, of Sandisfield, }

Meetings on the last Tuesday of April and September.

*Clerks of the Judicial Court.*

Prior to September, 1804, the Judges of the Supreme Court had a clerk of their own, who attended them in their circuits through the Commonwealth. Since that time, the clerks of the Court of Common Pleas and of the Court of Sessions, have been clerks of the Supreme Court. The clerks, from 1761, have been as follows, viz.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elijah Dwight, of Great Barrington, | from 1761 | to 1781 |
| Henry W. Dwight, of Stockbridge, | 1781 | 1803 |
| Joseph Woodbridge, do. | 1803 | 1821 |
| Charles Sedgwick, of Lenox, | 1821 | |

*County Attorneys.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Theodore Sedgwick, of Stockbridge, | from —— | to 1802 |
| Ashbel Strong, of Pittsfield, | 1802 | —— |
| Daniel Dewey, of Williamstown, | —— | 1811 |
| John Hunt, of Stockbridge, | 1811 | 1814 |
| John Whiting, of Great Barrington, | 1814 | —— |

*County Treasurers.*

It is not known that any treasurer was appointed in the County earlier than 1766. Then, and since, the following gentlemen have been appointed treasurers, and probably some others, viz.

| | |
|---|---|
| Silas Kellogg, of Sheffield, | April 29, 1766 |
| Mark Hopkins, of Great Barrington, | May 17, 1774 |
| Henry W. Dwight, of Stockbridge, | Sept. 14, 1784 |
| Moses Ashley, do. | Feb. 5, 1788 |
| Barnabas Bidwell, do. | Sept. —, 1791 |
| Caleb Hyde, of Lenox, | Aug. —, 1810 |
| Joseph Tucker, do. | Sept. —, 1813 |

*Sheriffs.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elijah Williams, of W. Stockbridge, from | 1761 to | 1777 |
| Israel Dickinson, of Pittsfield, | 1777 | —— |
| John Fellows, of Sheffield, | —— | 1781 |
| Caleb Hyde, of Lenox, | 1781 | 1791 |
| Thompson J. Skinner, of Williamstown, | 1791 | 1792 |
| Simon Larned, of Pittsfield, | 1792 | 1812 |
| Henry C. Brown, do. | 1812 | |

A Probate Court was established in Berkshire at the formation of the County.

*Judges of this Court.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Joseph Dwight, of Great Barrington, from | 1761 to | 1765 |
| William Williams, of Pittsfield, | 1765 | 1778 |
| Timothy Edwards, of Stockbridge, | 1778 | 1787 |
| Jahleel Woodbridge, do. | 1787 | 1795 |
| William Walker, of Lenox, | 1795 | 1824 |
| William P. Walker, do. | 1824 | |

*Registers of Probate.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elijah Dwight, of Great Barrington, | 1761 | 1781 |
| William Walker, of Lenox, | 1781 | 1785 |
| Edward Edwards, of Stockbridge, | 1785 | 1795 |
| Nathaniel Bishop, of Richmond, | 1795 | 1823 |
| George Whitney, of Stockbridge, | 1823 Dec. | 1825 |
| Henry W. Bishop, of Lenox, | 1826 | |

Probate Courts are holden at three places in Berkshire; at the Court House in Lenox on the first Tuesday of every month, excepting September, when the Court is holden on the first Tuesday after the first Wednesday; at Great Barrington on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, and November, and at Lanesborough on the second Tuesday in January, April, July, and October.

*Registry of Deeds.*

From 1761 until 1790, there was but one registry of deeds in this County, and that was kept at Great Barrington,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| By Mark Hopkins, of that town, | from 1761 to | 1776 |
| By Moses Hopkins, do. | 1778 | 1790 |

In 1790, the County was divided into three districts, the Middle, Southern, and Northern; and all the pre-

ceding records were removed to the Middle District, the office of which is kept at Lenox. The other offices are at Great Barrington and Lanesborough. The towns belonging to the Middle District are Lenox, Pittsfield, Richmond, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Lee, Otis, Becket, Washington, Hinsdale, and Peru. The towns to the south of these, belong to the Southern District, and those at the north to the Northern District.

*Registers of the Middle District.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Caleb Hyde, of | Lenox, | from 1790 until | 1796 |
| Samuel Quincy, | do. | 1796 | 1801 |
| Joseph Tucker, | do. | 1801 | |

*Registers of the Southern District.*

Moses Hopkins, of Great Barrington, from 1790.

*Registers of the Northern District.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| James Barker, of | Lanesborough, | from 1791 until | 1796 |
| Timothy Whitney, | do. | 1796 | 1806 |
| Samuel Bacon, | do. | 1806 | 1811 |
| Luther Washburn, | do. | 1811 | 1824 |
| George N. Briggs, | do. | 1824 | |

Before this County was formed, five persons only resided within its limits, who were engaged, after their settlement here, in the practice of law, viz. John Huggins, John Ashley, Elisha Huggins, Mark Hopkins, and Theodore Sedgwick. These were admitted to the bar in the original County of Hampshire. Since 1761, one hundred and thirteen have been admitted to the bar in Berkshire, (whose names will appear in the history of the towns where they lived) making, with the five just mentioned, one hundred and eighteen. Of this number, thirty have died while inhabitants of the County; about forty have removed to other parts of the country, most of whom are still living; from six to ten have retired from practice, or engaged in other pursuits, leaving about forty in the County still in the profession.

In September, 1815, the members of the bar formed themselves into a Law Library Association, for the purpose of procuring books to be used during the sessions of the Courts. They have now 310 volumes.

From the records of the Courts, the following facts have been obligingly furnished by the Clerk, which

show something of the judicial business among a population, averaging at the times specified, probably, about 37,000. The actions were entered at the Court of Common Pleas.

| *Actions entered.* | *Tried by Jury.* | *Carried to Supreme Court without trial.* |
|---|---|---|
| In 1810, 1385 | 25 | 71 |
| 1816, 1484 | 29 | 69 |
| 1826, 911 | 14 | 38 |
| 1827, 722 | 15 | 48 |
| 1828, 691 | 14 | 50 |

The diminution of actions since 1816, is owing to the gradual removal of the embarrassments produced by the late war with Great Britain, and to some extent, it is believed, to an improvement in public morals.

Besides discharging the immediate dutjes of their profession, the members of the bar in Berkshire have been called to fill many town offices, not a few in the State, and some under the government of the United States. Omitting the honors which some have obtained in other parts of the country since leaving the County, this bar has furnished one United States Senator, one Member of Congress under the Confederation, and six Members since the adoption of the Constitution, one of whom was Speaker of the House of Representatives; one Comptroller of the United States Treasury; two Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts; one Attorney General; four Judges of the County and Circuit Court; one Judge of Probate; seven State Senators, and four members of the Governor's Council.

There have been six executions in the County for capital offences. It is not known that either of the criminals was born in the County, though one or two of them had lived in it for some time.

John Bly and Charles Rose, one a foreigner and the other an American, were executed Dec. 6, 1787, for burglary committed in Lanesborough, under pretence of getting supplies for men engaged in the Shays' Insurrection.

Ephraim Wheeler, of Windsor, was executed Feb. 20, 1806, for a rape, committed upon his own daughter.

Ezra Hutchinson, of Stockbridge, was executed for the same offence, Nov, 18, 1813.

Peter Johnson, a black man, from Sheffield, but a native of the State of New York, was executed for the same crime also, Nov. 25, 1819.

Samuel P. Charles, an Oneida Indian, who had lived some time in West Stockbridge, and been distinguished for debased morals, was executed Nov. 22, 1826, for murdering a man of colour in Richmond.

These executions were all performed in Lenox, and drew together an immense multitude of spectators. It is much to be questioned whether such publicity in putting criminals to death, subserves the cause of justice and public virtue.

Since the adoption of the State Constitution, Berkshire has been a district for the election of State Senators. The following is a list of those who have been elected to this office :—

| *Names.* | *Towns in which they lived.* | *Years of service.* |
|---|---|---|
| Jahleel Woodbridge, | Stockbridge, | 1780 |
| James Barker, | Cheshire, | |
| Jahleel Woodbridge, | Stockbridge, | 1781 and 2 |
| John Bacon, | | |
| Jahleel Woodbridge, | | 1783 |
| Jonathan Smith, | Lanesborough, | |
| Jahleel Woodbridge, | Stockbridge | 1784 |
| Theodore Sedgwick, | | |
| Theodore Sedgwick, | | 1785 |
| Thompson J. Skinneer, | Williamstown, | |
| Thompson J. Skinner, | | 1786 and 7 |
| Elijah Dwight, | Great Barrington, | |
| Elijah Dwight, | do. | 1788 |
| William Whiting, | | |
| Elijah Dwight, | | 1789, 1790–1–2 and 3 |
| Thompson J. Skinner, | | |
| Thompson J. Skinner, | | 1794–5 and 6 |
| John Bacon, | | |
| Thomas Ives, | Great Barrington, | 1797 |
| William Williams, | Dalton, | |
| John Bacon, | | 1798 |
| Thomas Ives, | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| William Williams,<br>David Rosseter, Richmond, | 1799, 1800 |
| Thompson J. Skinner,<br>Barnabas Bidwell, Stockbridge, | 1801–2 |
| John Bacon,<br>Barnabas Bidwell, | 1803–4 |
| John Bacon,<br>Timothy Childs, Pittsfield, | 1805–6 |
| Timothy Childs,<br>Azariah Eggleston, Lenox, | 1807–8–9 |
| Timothy Childs,<br>William P. Walker, Lenox, | 1810 |
| William P. Walker,<br>William Towner, Williamstown, | 1811 |
| William Towner,<br>Lemuel Barstow, Great Barrington, | 1812 |
| Joseph Whiton, Lee,<br>Wolcott Hubbell, Lanesborough, | 1813–14 |
| Timothy Childs,<br>William P. Walker, | 1815 |
| Caleb Hyde, Lenox,<br>John Whiting, Great Barrington, | 1816 |
| John Whiting,<br>Daniel Noble, Williamstown, | 1817 |
| Caleb Hyde,<br>Daniel Noble, | 1818 |
| Caleb Hyde,<br>Phinehas Allen, Pittsfield, | 1819–20 |
| Phinehas Allen,<br>Lemuel Moffit, West Stockbridge, | 1821 |
| Lemuel Moffit,<br>Jonathan Allen, Pittsfield, | 1822 |
| Jonathan Allen,<br>George Hull, Sandisfield, | 1823 |
| George Hull,<br>Rodman Hazard, Hancock, | 1824 |
| Rodman Hazard,<br>Samuel Shears, Sheffield, | 1825 |
| Samuel Shears,<br>Peter Briggs, Adams. | 1826 |
| Peter Briggs,<br>Joseph B. Hill, West Stockbridge, | 1827 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Charles Mattoon, Lenox, Robert F. Barnard, Sheffield, | 1828 |
| Robert F. Barnard, Samuel M. McKay, Pittsfield, | 1829 |

*Members of the Governor's Council.*

About the time disturbances were commencing between this country and Great Britain, Timothy Woodbridge, of Stockbridge, is said to have been appointed a member of the Council by mandamus from the King. But he did not accept the appointment.

From 1775 until 1780, Timothy Edwards, of Stockbridge, was a member of the Council, as it existed in virtue of the English charter; a period in which the government of the State was very much entrusted to that body. Since 1780, the following gentlemen have been honored with this appointment, viz.

| | |
|---|---|
| Daniel Dewey, of Williamstown, | in 1809 and 12 |
| John C. Williams, of Pittsfield, | 1817 and 18 |
| Daniel Noble, of Williamstown, | 1821 and 2 |
| William P. Walker, of Lenox, | 1823 |
| Nathan Willis, of Pittsfield, | 1824–5 and 6 |
| Joshua Danforth, do. | 1827 and 8 |
| George Hull, of Sandisfield, | 1829 |

Before the adoption of the present Constitution of the United States, and while Representatives to Congress in Massachusetts were appointed by the Legislature, Timothy Edwards, of Stockbridge, was appointed a Representative in 1779, but declined. Theodore Sedgwick, of the same town, was appointed in 1785 and 6, and accepted.

About 1788 or 9, Massachusetts was districted, for the purpose of electing members to Congress by the freemen. Berkshire, with a part of the old County of Hampshire, was made a district. Three towns are now attached to it from Hampshire County. The members from this district have been as follows :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Theodore Sedgwick, of Stockbridge, | from 1789 | to 1797 |
| Thompson J. Skinner, of Williamstown, | 1797 | 1799 |
| Theodore Sedgwick, | 1799 | 1801 |
| John Bacon, of Stockbridge, | 1801 | 1803 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Barnabas Bidwell, do. | 1803 | 1806 |
| Simon Larned, of Pittsfield, | 1806 | 1807 |
| Ezekiel Bacon, do. | 1807 | 1813 |
| Daniel Dewey, of Williamstown, | 1813 | 1815 |
| John W. Hulbert, of Pittsfield, | 1815 | 1817 |
| Henry Shaw, of Lanesborough, | 1817 | 1821 |
| Henry W. Dwight, of Stockbridge, | 1821 | |

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.—The inhabitants of Berkshire, with very few exceptions, partook largely of the feelings which pervaded the country during the rise and progress of the war of the Revolution. Having been successfully engaged in subduing a forest and in laying a foundation for the happiness of themselves and families, they had acquired a high sense of their personal rights and a fixed determination to defend them. They had become inured to privation and hardship, and were familiar with enterprize and adventure. The attempts of the British Parliament to tax the Americans without their consent; the closing of the port of Boston; the subversion of the charter, and other oppressive measures, therefore, produced strong sensations in their minds, and prompted them at once to concur with their brethren eastward in the earliest measures for securing a redress of grievances. Of this, the doings of the County Convention in 1774 (or Congress, as it was then called) are sufficient proof. The minutes of this convention are too interesting not to be inserted in this place.

"BERKSHIRE, JULY 6, A. D. 1774.

*At a Congress of the Deputies of the several Towns within said County*, [convened at Stockbridge,] *on Wednesday, the sixth day of July*, 1774, (*viz.*) *from Sheffield*—Jno. Ashley, Esq., Capt. Nathaniel Austin, Deac. Silas Kellogg, Mr. Theodore Sedgwick, Capt. Wm. Day, Mr. Wm. Bacon, Doct. Leml. Barnard.

*Great Barrington*—Mark Hopkins, Esq., Doct. Wm. Whiting, Mr. Truman Wheeler.

*Egremont*—Mr. Ephraim Fitch, Capt. Timothy Kellogg, Mr. Samuel Culver.

*Stockbridge*—Timothy Edwards, Esq. Jahleel Wood-

bridge, Esq., Saml. Brown, Jr. Esq., Mr. Thomas Williams, Doct. Erastus Sergeant.

*Lenox*—Messrs. Caleb Hyde, Capt. Edward Gray, Leml. Collins, Jno. Patterson, William Walker.

*West Stockbridge*—Messrs. Elisha Hooper, Benjamin Lewis.

*Alford*—Messrs. Ebenezer Barritt, Deodate Ingersoll, William Brunson.

*Richmond*—Capt. Elisha Brown, Lieut. David Rosseter, Mr. Nathaniel Wilson.

*Pittsfield*—Messrs. Jno. Brown, James Eason, Jno. Strong.

*Lanesborough*—Messrs. Gideon Wheeler, Peter Curtiss, Francis Gittau.

*Jerico* [Hancock]—Capt. Asa Douglass.

*Williamstown*—Messrs. Robert Hawkins, Elisha Baker, Jacob Meach.

*E. Hoosuck* [Adams]—Mr. Eliel Todd.

*Sandisfield*—Messrs. Jacob Brown, David Deming.

*Partridgefield* [Peru]—Mr. Nathan Fisk.

*Hartwood* [Washington]—Messrs. William Spencer, Moses Ashley.

*Becket*—Messrs. Nathaniel Kingsley, Peter Porter, Jonathan Wadsworth.

*New Marlborough*—Messrs. Elihu Wright, Jabez Ward, Noah Church, Zenas Wheeler, Ephm. Gittau.

*Tyringham*—Messrs. Giles Jackson, Benjamin Warner, Ezekiel Herrick.

JOHN ASHLEY, Esq. *in the Chair.*
THEODORE SEDGWICK, *Clerk.*

The question is moved and put—Whether this Congress will advise the inhabitants of this County to *non-consumption of British manufactures*, under such limitations and exceptions, as to them shall appear proper—it passed in the affirmative.

*Moved and put*—Whether this Congress will choose a Committee to take into consideration the Acts of the Parliament of Great Britain, made for the purpose of raising and collecting a Revenue in America, and report their sense of them—that said Committee consist of five persons; and *Mr. Thomas Williams, Mr. Peter Curtiss, Mr. Jno. Brown, Mark Hopkins, Esq., and Mr. Theodore Sedgwick*, were chosen.

*Moved and put*—Whether a Committee be appointed to take into consideration, and report the draught of an agreement, to be recommended to the Towns in this County, for the *non-consumption of British manufactures*, said Committee to consist of five persons. Passed in the affirmative, and

*Timothy Edwards*, Esq., Doct. *William Whiting*, Doct. *Lemuel Barnard*, Doct. *Erastus Sergeant*, and Deac. *James Eason*, were chosen.

*Voted*, That the Members of this Committee do recommend to the inhabitants of the several Towns of this County to which they belong, to set apart Thursday, the 14th inst. for a day of FASTING and PRAYER, to implore the Divine assistance that He would interpose, and in mercy avert those evils with which we are threatened; and the several members of this Committee are enjoined to inform the several Ministers of the religious assembly to which they belong.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

*July 7th*—Met according to adjournment.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Acts of the British Parliament, made for the purpose of raising and collecting a revenue in America, and to report their sense of them, Reported, which was unanimously accepted.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the *League and Covenant*, reported. Read, paragraph by paragraph, and accepted.

*Put to vote.* That the several members of this Committee be desired to recommend to the charity of the inhabitants of the several towns in this County, the distressed circumstances of the poor of the towns of *Charlestown* and *Boston*, and that the same be remitted to them in *fat cattle* in the fall, by such ways and means as shall hereafter be agreed upon.

*Voted*, Thanks be given to the Chairman.

*Voted*, That the Clerk be enjoined to transmit a copy of these Resolves to the Committee of Correspondence in Boston.

WHEREAS the Parliament of Great Britain have, of late, undertaken to give and grant away our money,

without our knowledge or consent; and in order to compel us to a servile submission to the above measures, have proceeded to block up the harbour of Boston; also, have, or are about to vacate the Charter, and repeal certain laws of this Province, heretofore enacted by the General Court, and confirmed to us by the King and his predecessors. Therefore, as a means to obtain a speedy redress of the above grievances, *We do solemnly and in good faith covenant and engage with each other:*

1st. That we will not import, purchase, or consume, or suffer any person for, by, or under us, to import, purchase, or consume, in any manner whatever, any goods, wares, or manufactures, which shall arrive in America from Great Britain, from and after the first day of October next, or such other time as shall be agreed upon by the American Congress; nor any goods which shall be ordered from thence from and after this day, until our Charter and constitutional rights shall be restored; or until it shall be determined by the major part of our brethren in this and the neighboring Colonies, that a non-importation or non-consumption agreement will not have a tendency to effect the desired end, and until it shall be apparent that a non-importation or non-consumption agreement will not be entered into by the majority of this and the neighboring Colonies, except such articles as the said General Congress of North America shall advise to import and consume.

2dly. We do further covenant and agree, that we will observe the most strict obedience to all constitutional laws and authority; and will at all times exert ourselves to the utmost for the discouragement of all licentiousness, and suppressing all disorderly mobs and riots.

3dly. We will exert ourselves as far as in us lies, in promoting peace, love, and unanimity among each other; and for that end, we engage to avoid all unnecessary lawsuits whatever.

4thly. As a strict and proper adherence to the non-importation and non-consumption agreement will, if not seasonably provided against, involve us in many difficulties and inconveniences, *we do promise and agree*, that we will take the most prudent care for the raising of sheep, and for the manufacturing all such clothes as

shall be most useful and necessary; and, also, for the raising of flax, and the manufacturing of linen; further, that we will by every prudent method endeavour to guard against all those inconveniences which might otherwise arise from the foregoing agreement.

5thly. That if any person shall refuse to sign this, or a similar covenant, or, after having signed it, shall not adhere to the real intent and meaning thereof, he or they shall be treated by us with all the neglect they shall justly deserve, particularly by omitting all commercial dealings with them.

6thly. That if this, or a similar covenant, shall after the first day of August next, be offered to any trader or shop-keeper in this County, and he or they shall refuse to sign the same for the space of 48 hours, that we will from thenceforth purchase no article of British manufacture, or East India goods, from him or them, until such time as he or they shall sign this or a similar covenant."

In subsequent years, repeated conventions were held, composed of the most intelligent, virtuous, and influential men, elected by the several towns, in which the circumstances of the County and country were considered, and measures for promoting the general welfare devised and recommended.

Nor did the patriotism of the people spend itself in conventions, in speeches and resolutions. The very year in which the first convention was held, two regiments of *minute men* were raised by voluntary enlistment; one in the middle and northern part of the County, under Col. John Patterson, of Lenox, afterwards Gen. Patterson; and the other in the southern part, under Col. John Fellows, of Sheffield, afterwards Gen. Fellows. These regiments marched, immediately after the battle of Lexington, to the vicinity of Boston, where they were re-organized and enlarged. The men enlisted into the service of their country, at first for eight months; most of them enlisted afterwards for a longer period, and some during the war. Lexington battle was fought on the 18th of April, 1775; news of it arrived in Berkshire on the 20th, about noon, and the next morning at sunrise the regiment of Col. Patterson were on their way, completely equipped in arms, and *generally in uniform*. This marched to Cambridge,

and consisted, after its re-organization, of ten companies. Patterson was commissioned colonel of it, Jeremiah Cady, of Ashuelot Equivalent (Dalton,) was major, and Charles Dibbie, of Lenox, Nathan Watkins, of Partridgefield (Peru,) Thomas Williams, of Stockbridge, David Noble, of Pittsfield, and Samuel Sloane, of Williamstown, were captains. The other principal officers were taken from other parts of Massachusetts, with the exception of Capt. John McKinstry, who belonged to Hillsdale, New York. Animated with the same zeal, the regiment from the south part of the County proceeded to Roxbury. Fellows was formally constituted colonel of it, William King, of Great Barrington. William Bacon, of Sheffield. Ebenezer Smith, of New Marlborough, a Mr. Soule, of Sandisfield, William Goodrich, of Stockbridge, and Noah Allen, of Tyringham, were captains; Samuel Brewer, of the last mentioned town, was adjutant. A few weeks after, Peter Ingersoll, of Great Barrington, raised a company, which joined the same regiment.

Beside those pertaining to these regiments, many others entered into the service of their country, at the commencement of hostilities, or on subsequent occasions, by voluntary enlistment, or at the call of government, for shorter or longer periods, on some particular emergency, or as the state of the country more generally demanded. The Stockbridge Indians, equally devoted with the whites about them, furnished a company, commanded by Capt. Abraham Nimham, one of their own tribe. In the course of 1776, Samuel Brewer, who had been adjutant in Col. Fellows' regiment, was made a colonel, and proceeded at the head of a regiment from Berkshire to Ticonderoga. In December of the same year, Col. John Brown, of Pittsfield, conducted a regiment of drafted militia to Mount Independence. In 1777, large bodies of militia were despatched to assist Gen. Stark and Gen. Gates in opposing the troops of Burgoyne. In consequence of an order of the General Court, passed Dec. 2, 1780, 222 men were raised in the several towns for the Continental service, to serve three years, or during the war, 22 in Sheffield, 7 in Egremont, 11 in Great Barrington, 3 in Alford, 12 in Stockbridge, 7 in West Stockbridge, 10 in Tyring-

ham, 12 in New Marlborough, 12 in Sandisfield, 5 in Becket, 3 in Loudon (part of Otis,) 13 in Richmond, 10 in Lenox, 15 in Pittsfield, 3 in Ashuelot Equivalent, 4 in Washington, 7 in Lee, 15 in Lanesborough, 2 in New Ashford, 13 in Williamstown, 7 in Hancock, 6 in Partridgefield, 8 in Windsor, and 15 in Adams. Many parties also were formed, which made sudden irruptions into the adjoining parts of New York, for the purpose of quelling the efforts or taking the persons of those (existing there in considerable numbers) who were inimical to the American cause.

No class of men espoused the cause of America more heartily than the clergy, who plead for it in public and private. The Rev. Mr. Avery, of Windsor, sought a dismission from his church, that he might go into the army as a chaplain. Several others left their congregations, for limited periods, that they might serve their country in this capacity. The late Mr. Allen, minister of Pittsfield, is said to have used his musket very dexterously in the battle of Bennington.

A strong enthusiasm indeed pervaded all classes of society. Females felt the subject deeply, and despised the man who was in the vigor of life and the enjoyment of health, and yet unwilling to bear arms in defence of his country's rights. They not only gave up their husbands, brothers, fathers, and sons, to serve in the army, but oftentimes went into the field, in their absence, and labored with those who were too aged, or too young, or too infirm to go abroad, that they might provide food for their families. The pious, in secret, and in little circles of three, five, and ten, sent up their cry to the God of armies, that he would have mercy upon them and theirs, and save their country.

To describe all the marches and services, privations and hardships of the soldiers, were the materials at hand for doing it correctly, would be impracticable in this work. A few facts, briefly stated, must suffice.

The regiment of Col. Patterson, after their organization at Cambridge, were employed in the erection of Fort No. 3, within the limits of Charlestown, the first erected on the lines about Boston. They manned and defended this, by the express command of Gen. Ward, *on the memorable* 17th of June, 1775, the day of the

battle of Bunker Hill, for the purpose of preventing the British from coming upon the rear of the Americans actually engaged in the conflict. The regiment of Col. Fellows were employed in such services as circumstances demanded, about Roxbury.

After the battle, the regiments remained generally about Boston until the British evacuated that place, in March, 1776, though some were detached in the course of the summer for the expedition under Colonel, afterwards Gen. Arnold, up Kennebec river, and across the vast wilderness between the settlements in Maine and Canada, to Quebec. These endured the most dreadful sufferings from fatigue and hunger. in passing mountains and morasses, in that daring and perilous enterprize.

When the evacuation took place, the troops were ordered to New York; and thence the regiment of Col. Patterson was ordered to Canada, to assist the forces which had gone on to join Arnold at Quebec. Though they heard on their way, at Lake Champlain, of the ill success of the Americans at that city, they proceeded as far as Montreal, where some of the men were dispatched to the Cedars, and engaged in the disastrous battle fought at that place. In retreating from Canada, they spent a little time at Crown Point, then went to Ticonderoga, then crossed the bay and fortified Mount Independence in Orwell; where they remained until November; when they were marched to Albany, took shipping, and sailed to Esopus. From this place they travelled through the Minisink country, through Nazareth and Bethlehem, and joined the army under Gen. Washington at Newtown, Pennsylvania, just soon enough to cross the Delaware with him, and to take a part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. From Princeton they retired into winter quarters at Morristown. In 1777, this regiment was concerned in the capture of Burgoyne.

The regiment suffered exceedingly in the tour to Canada. When they left New York, they were more than 600 strong; but when they arrived at Newtown, they had only 220 men, some having been killed, some having died with the small pox, some having been left as hostages in Canada, and others having been left sick on

the way. The brave Capt. Williams, who had been advanced to a lieutenant-colonel, fell sick at Skenesborough, (now Whitehall) and died July 10, 1776.

In the course of this year, Col. Fellows was made a Brigadier-General of militia, (as Col. Patterson was in the Continental service) and had the command of a brigade in the military operations about New York. Col. Mark Hopkins, of Great Barrington, who was brigade-major under him, fell sick and died at White Plains, Oct. 26. His Roxbury regiment took a part in the battle fought at this place two days after. Here the company of Stockbridge Indians had four men slain, and several died of sickness.

The Berkshire militia rendered important aid to Gen. Stark at Bennington battle, on the 16th of August, 1777.

Soon after this battle, Gen. Lincoln, who had remained at Manchester to assemble recruits and forward them to the army, dispatched Col. Brown, of Pittsfield, with a body of men, many of whom belonged to this County, "to surprize the British posts at Ticonderoga and Mt. Independence. This officer without any difficulty made himself master of the British outworks; took several gun-boats, an armed sloop, 200 batteaux. near 300 prisoners, arms, ammunition, &c., and retook an American standard and 100 prisoners. Then finding himself unable to retake the forts, he returned with his booty to Gen. Lincoln. This successful effort was made on the 14th of September." This excellent man fell in an ambuscade of French and Indians, at Stone Arabia, in Palatine, New York, with a large part of his men, (some of whom also were from Berkshire) whom he was conducting to the relief of Gen. Schuyler, Oct. 19, 1780, some account of which will be given in the history of Pittsfield.

These facts are ample testimony that the people of this County bore an honorable part in achieving the independence of their country. The declaration of a County Convention, held in Berkshire, Aug. 26. 1778, in a memorial to the Legislature, (and there were more reasons for making it when the war was over,) is worthy to be inserted in this place. "Your memorialists have *from the time of the* Stamp Act to the present day," say

they, "manifested a constant and uniform abhorrence and detestation (not only in sentiment but overt actions) of all the unconstitutional measures taken by the British Parliament to tax, depauperate, and subjugate these now united and independent States of America."

"That they can vie with any county in this State, not only in voluntarily appearing in arms upon the least notice, when their brethren in distress needed their assistance, as at the massacre at Lexington, the fight of Bunker Hill, &c. &c., but also in filling up their quotas of men from time to time demanded, either by this State, or by the commanding officer in these parts; although our situation has been such as might have justified the General Court had they called upon us for no such supplies: over and above which, our zeal in the common cause has carried us beyond our abilities, in the frequent excursions against the common enemy, as in the battle of Bennington, in assisting Col. Brown in the capture of so many hundreds at the carrying place at Ticonderoga, in the quelling the tories at divers times in a neighboring State, which otherwise might have suffered amazingly, and in instances of the like nature too many to enumerate."

After the lapse of almost half a century, a very considerable number of the officers and soldiers of the Revolution live among us, and are venerated for their services. Notwithstanding all the inroads which death has made upon them, as many as forty or fifty, being reduced in their circumstances, are still on the pension list, receiving in consideration of their labors, the bounty of government.

Few advocated the cause of Great Britain at the beginning, and fewer still left the County and removed into the territories of the King. The amount of confiscated property was small, and much of that consisted of wild lands owned by persons at a distance.

It must be admitted, however, that some *individuals* were attached to the King; a very small number united themselves to the forces of Burgoyne when he was coming down from Canada Among these was a man of the name of Richard Jackson, belonging to Hancock, who was taken at the battle of Bennington, and whose imprisonment, condemnation and pardon, with the con-

nected circumstances, have given rise to the popular story of the Twins, or of Stedman. See the real facts, as stated in President Dwight's Travels, vol. iii. pp. 226, 7, 8.

SHAYS INSURRECTION.—In 1783, a definitive treaty of peace was signed between the United States and Great Britain, and our glorious independence confirmed. But the blessing was acquired at an immense expense both of treasure and blood; an expense which was by no means disregarded at the moment. The expense of blood filled the land with mourning, though it made the people the more sensible of their wrongs, and the more determined to redress them. The keenness of these sensations, from the nature of the human mind, gradually diminished. But the expense of treasure was much more fully realized when the war was over; when the enemy being withdrawn, they had leisure calmly and thoroughly to survey their situation. This was particularly the fact in Massachusetts. Having been in actual service abroad, or preparing for it at home, during the long-continued contest, the people had neglected their private concerns; their buildings and farms had gone to decay, their business was deranged, and large debts, contracted by many for the support of their families, were continually increasing by interest. The towns were embarrassed by advances made to comply with repeated requisitions for men, and supplies to support them, done upon their own particular credit. The private consolidated debt of the State was £1[illegible]0,000, besides £250,000, due to the officers of their line of the army, while their proportion of the federal debt was not less than £1,500,000. How these individual, town, state, and national debts could be paid, and in the mean time their own families supported and the necessary institutions of society maintained, was a question difficult to be answered. It filled the timid with trembling, and those whose minds were of the firmest structure, with deep solicitude. The paper currency which had been in circulation was rapidly depreciating, and little specie was in existence; the markets for produce were closed or lessened; the means for resuming foreign trade, and even the fisheries, and prosecuting them

extensively, now so long suspended, were, to a great degree, wanting.

In these distressing and embarrassing circumstances were concealed the remote causes of the insurrection, commonly called the *Shays Insurrection*, from Daniel Shays, its principal leader, the most unhappy and the most disgraceful transaction which ever occurred in Massachusetts, sundering the ties of brothers, neighbors and citizens, threatening not only the whole State with anarchy, but endangering the peace of the States lying on our borders. The proximate causes, though almost every thing was made a subject of complaint, were the efforts of creditors to collect their debts, and of the State to collect taxes.

In Minot's History of the insurrections in Massachusetts, in 1786, the reader will find a detailed and interesting account of these wretched proceedings. A brief and hasty sketch of them is all that will now be attempted, and this must respect more especially that part of them which transpired in Berkshire; much of which will be drawn from the work just mentioned, and when most convenient, will be given in the language of that respectable writer.

Two circumstances probably contributed to draw a portion of the people of this County into the insurrections. One was, that when the revolutionary war began, the people were laboring under the hardships of new settlers. The calamities, growing out of the war, therefore, were the more deeply felt. The other circumstance was, that the inhabitants of this County were the "first to put a stop to courts" at the beginning of the Revolution, and were very backward afterwards in consenting to have them resume their functions. No Probate Courts were held here from 1774 until 1778, and even deeds were not recorded from 1776 until the last year just mentioned. In the course of this year, the several towns were consulted, whether they would open and support the Courts of Common Pleas and of Quarter Sessions, until a new Constitution should be framed, and adopted by the people, and the point was decided in the negative by large majorities; as appears from the minutes of the County Convention which sat *on the 26th of August*. This convention drew up a pe-

tition to the General Court to call a convention of delegates from all the towns and places liable to taxation, to form a bill of rights and a constitution of government. In 1779, it is understood, that the County assented by a small majority of their delegates in convnetion, after debating more than two days, that the courts might be opened, though no judicial proceedings were actually had until after the adoption of the constitution in 1780. This suspension of the courts, however desirable the constitution was, besides occasioning a vast accumulation of causes for future adjudication, was unfriendly in its influence to order and good government.

After the constitution was adopted, courts were held according to the provisions which it contained, and justice again began to take its direct course. But in 1782 an act was passed, usually denominated *the Tender Act*, providing that executions issued for private demands might be satisfied by neat cattle and other articles particularly enumerated, at an appraisement of impartial men under oath, which caused a multitude of lawsuits to be postponed, until the year's existence of the law expired. This law furnished the first signal for hostilities between creditors and debtors, between the rich and the poor, the few and the many. The increase of civil actions gave employment to the practitioners at the bar, and induced an unusual number to enter into the profession. These became odious to debtors as the legal instruments of their distresses, and were held up at length as the proper objects of proscription by the disaffected generally. From the bar, ill will was extended to the courts and to the Senate, to the laws of the State and the provisions of the Constitution. No mild measures were sufficient to satisfy the discontented. An evil spirit continued and spread, until the summer and autumn of 1786, when events rapidly hastened the crisis which took place the succeeding winter.

During the revolutionary war, county conventions had been held for the purpose of devising measures for promoting the public welfare, and were instrumental of much good. They were now held to consider grievances, and became, in some instances, the instruments of *unspeakable* mischief. On the 22d of August, a con*vention* sat at Hatfield, composed of delegates from fif-

ty towns in the county of Hampshire, which drew up a catalogue of grievances, and sent them into the counties of Worcester and Berkshire. The effect of this was soon visible, though the precise effect that followed may not have been intended by the convention. On the last Tuesday in this month, a large number of insurgents, supposed to be near 1500, assembled under arms at at Northampton; took possession of the Court House, and effectually prevented the sitting of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace there at that time, as prescribed by law.

Upon this violence, a proclamation was issued by the Governor, calling in strong and spirited language, upon all the officers and citizens of the State, to suppress such treasonable proceedings.

Notwithstanding this, more than 300 insurgents appeared the next week at the Court House in Worcester, where the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace were to be holden, and by a line of bayonets prevented the judges from entering the door. Though the judges went to a neighboring house, opened court and adjourned until morning, the violence of the mob soon obliged the Court of Common Pleas to adjourn without day, and the Court of Sessions to adjourn until the 21st of November.

On the last week in August, a county convention was held at Lenox, which took a much more justifiable course than the convention in Hampshire. Though a a rage for reformation was conspicuous in it, yet they passed many judicious resolutions, and among others, that they would use their influence to support the courts in the exercise of their legal powers, and endeavor to quiet the agitated spirits of the people. The insurgents, however, assembled in force to the number of eight hundred at Great Barrington soon after, and not only prevented the sitting of the courts, which were so obnoxious to them, but broke open the gaol and liberated the prisoners. They also compelled three of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas to sign an obligation, that they would not act under their commissions until grievances were redressed. It ought, however, in justice to the insurgents, to be mentioned, that the Hon. Elijah Dwight, then too a member of the Senate, upon

a proper resistance, was not compelled to subscribe the obligation.

Hitherto the insurgents had directed their efforts against the inferior courts, but they were now determined to prevent the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court, that they might not be indicted for obstructing the administration of justice. This court was about to sit at Springfield; and the Governor ordered Maj. Gen. Wm. Shepard to pre-occupy the Court House with six hundred men; which was accordingly done. But on the day of the court's sitting, Shays appeared with a body of men, equally numerous, greatly incensed that the Court House was taken possession of by the government. The insurgents sent a request to the judges that none of the late rioters should be indicted, who returned a firm reply, purporting that they should execute the laws of the country agreeably to their oaths. But such was the confusion attending the presence of so many armed men, who were continually increasing, and the panel of jurors not being filled, that the court adjourned on the third day, after resolving that it was inexpedient to proceed to the county of Berkshire.

When the time arrived for holding this court in Great Barrington, the malcontents, pretending that the resolution of the court was merely intended to deceive them, assembled there in considerable numbers, became extremely riotous, and obliged several persons, who were obnoxious to them, to fly. One gentleman, who sustained a very honorable office, was pursued by armed men in various directions, houses were searched, and in some instances, citizens fired upon.

Some time after this, and while the House of Representatives (for the Legislature had been convened) was debating respecting the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, some of the insurgents, alarmed by the circumstance, sent a circular letter to the Selectmen of many towns in the county of Hampshire, requiring them immediately to assemble their inhabitants, to see that they were furnished with arms and ammunition according to law. They also ordered the militia, in some instances, to be furnished with sixty rounds of powder, and to stand ready to march at a moment's warning.

On the 21st of November, when the Court of General Sessions were to meet according to adjournment at Worcester, the seat of justice was filled with armed men; the justices were obliged to open at a tavern, and all the exertions of the sheriff were insufficient to procure them entrance into the Court House.

Immediately on receiving news of this procedure, the Governor issued his orders as commander-in-chief, called upon the Major-Generals of the militia, immediately to see that their several divisions were completely organized and equipped, and ready to take the field at the shortest notice.

In the early part of December, some hundreds of the insurgents collected at Worcester; and on the 26th of the month, Shays assembled 300 malcontents at Springfield, took possession of the Court House, and prevented the court, which was to sit then at that place, from proceeding to business.

On the first of January, the Governor and Council, in view of this transaction, determined to raise a body of men from different counties, to suppress the insurrections which were now taking place with alarming frequency; 700 from the county of Suffolk, 500 from Essex, 800 from Middlesex, 1200 from Hampshire, and 1200 from Worcester; the whole amounting to 4,400 rank and file. Two companies of artillery were ordered to be detached from Suffolk, and a like number from Middlesex. The troops of the three first named counties were ordered to rendezvous in the vicinity of Boston, on the 19th of January; those from Hampshire at Springfield, on the 18th; those from Worcester were to join the troops from the eastern counties at the town of Worcester, and the whole were to be raised for thirty days, unless sooner discharged.

On the 19th of January, 1787, his Excellency directed Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, of Hingham, (whose military reputation and mildness of temper admirably fitted him for the delicate and important trust,) to take command of this respectable force. In his instructions, the Governor informed him, that the great objects to be effected were, to protect the Judicial Courts, particularly those which were about to be holden in the county of Worcester, should the justices of those courts request

his aid; to assist the civil magistrates in executing the laws; and in repelling or apprehending all and every such person and persons as should in a hostile manner attempt and enterprize the destruction, detriment, or annoyance of the Commonwealth; and also to aid them in apprehending the disturbers of the public peace, as well as all such persons, as might be named in the state warrants, that had been or might be committed to any civil officer or officers, or to any other person to execute.

In case he should judge it necessary, the Governor authorized him to call upon the Major-Generals for further and effectual aid; and while he confided much to his discretion, suggested that it might be necessary to march a respectable force into the western counties.

The raising and movement of these troops produced strong sensations among the malcontents, and prompted them to various expedients and efforts, in hope of securing themselves from punishment, and of distressing and weakening the friends of government.

Before the troops under Gen. Lincoln marched from Roxbury, Gen. Shepard had been ordered to take possession of the post at Springfield. He soon collected 900 men, and afterwards 200 more, the continental arsenal furnishing them with a sufficient number of field pieces, and such equipments as were wanted. It became an object with the insurgents to gain this post, if possible, before the arrival of Lincoln's army. Their movements, therefore, were towards West Springfield on the one side, where about 400 men were collected under the command of Luke Day; and towards the Boston road on the other, where 1100 more were headed by Shays himself. Besides these, a party of about 400 from the county of Berkshire, under the command of Eli Parsons, were stationed in the north parish of Springfield.

Shays proposed to attack the post on the 25th of January, and wrote to Day on the 24th to co-operate with him. In a letter which was intercepted by Gen. Shepard, Day replied that he could not assist him on the 25th, but would the day after. On the 25th, however, Shays, confident of his aid, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, approached the arsenal, where the militia were

posted, with his troops in open column. Gen. Shepard sent several times, to know the intention of the enemy, and to warn them of their danger; and received for answer, in substance, that they would have the barracks; and they immediately marched onwards to within 250 yards of the arsenal. Another message was sent, informing them that the militia were posted there by order of the Governor and of Congress, and that if they approached any nearer they would be fired upon. One of their leaders replied, *that* is all we want; and they immediately advanced one hundred yards. Gen. Shepard was now compelled to fire; but, in hope of intimidating them, ordered the two first shot to be directed over their heads, which instead of retarding, quickened their approach; and the artillery was at last pointed at the centre of their column, which produced its effect; a cry of murder was raised in the rear of the insurgents; their whole body was thrown into the greatest confusion, and in spite of all the efforts of Shays to form them, the troops retreated precipitately about ten miles to Ludlow, leaving three of their men dead on the field, and one wounded. Had Gen. Shepard been disposed to pursue, he might easily have cut many of them in pieces. But the object was, not to destroy them, but to bring them to consideration and amendment.

Notwithstanding this retreat, there was serious apprehensions of another attack from the insurgents; for Day was now on the west side of Connecticut river with his men, and Parsons at Chickabee, whither the party of Shays repaired, (after losing 200 men by desertion) on the 26th. This apprehension was allayed the next day, at noon, by the arrival of Lincoln's army.

Gen. Lincoln had reached Worcester on the 22d; had protected the courts there, and learning the situation of Gen. Shepard, had started for Springfield on the 25th, having dispatched orders to Gen. Brooks to proceed to the same place as speedily as possible, with the Middlesex militia.

Although the march from Worcester was very fatiguing, the weather being uncommonly severe, the army were ordered under arms at half past three o'clock the same day on which they arrived; most of them were

marched across the river to attack Day, while Gen. Shepard, with the Hampshire troops, moved up the river to prevent Shays from joining him. The party under Day speedily fled, with scarcely a show of opposition, and made the best of their way to Northampton. In like manner the party under Shays fled the next day, as the army approached them, retreating through South Hadley to Amherst.

On his arrival at Amherst, Gen. Lincoln, finding that Shays had passed through the place with most of his men towards Pelham, too long to be overtaken, gave up the pursuit, and directed his march to Hadley, the nearest place where he could find a cover for his troops.

The next morning, information being received that a small number of Gen. Shepard's men had been taken at Southampton, and that some of the enemy were still there, a party was sent after them, who overtook this body of insurgents at Middlefield, at midnight, captured 59 prisoners and nine sleigh loads of provisions, and returned to the army the day following.

The whole force of the insurgents having taken post on two high hills in Pelham, called east and west hills, which were rendered difficult of access by reason of the depth of snow around them, Gen. Lincoln, on the 30th of January, directed a letter to Capt. Shays and the officers commanding the men in arms against the government, calling upon them to disband their deluded followers, threatening them with apprehension in case of refusal, &c., which led on to an unsatisfactory correspondence.

The time for an adjourned session of the Legislature soon arrived, and on the 3d of February, a sufficient number of representatives were collected for the transaction of business. On this day, the Governor laid before the assembly a full view of the state of things in the Commonwealth; and the day after, a declaration of rebellion was unanimously passed in the Senate, and concurred in by the lower House.

A petition, dated the 30th of January, and purporting to be from the officers of the counties of Worcester, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Berkshire, *at arms*, in Pelham, was sent to the General Court, acknowledging *their error* in taking up arms, and promising to lay

them down and return to their homes, on condition that a pardon should be granted to the insurgents for their past offences.

They did not wait, however, the result of this petition; but on the 3d of February moved their forces from Pelham to Petersham. Gen. Lincoln, informed of this, marched for Petersham on the evening of the same day, and by a rapid movement of 30 miles, (in which much was suffered the latter part of the way from a violent snow storm) came upon them by surprise on the 4th, and put them to flight. One hundred and fifty were taken prisoners, many retired to their homes, and the rest, including all the principal officers, fled into the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

The rebels being thus dispersed, Gen. Lincoln, after dismissing three companies of artillery, and ordering two regiments to Worcester, directed his attention towards Northfield, in the neighborhood of which, many of the fugitives had taken shelter. But an express arrived with a letter from Maj. Gen. John Patterson, the commander of the militia in Berkshire, which led him to take a different course.

Some time previous, while the army were marching from the vicinity of Boston, the disaffected in this County, who had not proceeded to Hampshire, undertook to support their cause, by appearing under arms in their own neighborhood, while the friends of good order adopted measures to oppose them. Should they be driven from the counties eastward, it was apprehended they would collect in some of the fastnesses on the Green Mountain range, on the borders between Hampshire and Berkshire, draw their subsistence from towns in the vicinity, well affected to government, and take, perhaps, some of the more important characters as hostages. To secure themselves, and promote the public welfare, therefore, a voluntary association was formed, amounting to about 500 men, comprising the most respectable citizens. One company of these volunteers, containing 40 or 50, was formed in Sheffield, under Capt. Joseph Goodrich. But so great was the agitation in that town, (and many other towns were in commotion,) and such was the danger of their being attacked by their fellow-citizens, that they did not march to

Stockbridge, the place of rendezvous, until a company went down from Great Barrington and joined them. To show their spirit and determination at this juncture, 150 or 200 insurgents assembled at West Stockbridge village. It was deemed indispensable to disperse them fore their numbers should be increased. The companies at Stockbridge were formed into three divisions, and ordered to march to that place in the directions which the roads naturally pointed out. The central division took the common road to the village, over the mountain. Another, under Capt. Goodrich, took a more southern route, and the third, under Major Rowley, of Richmond, a more northern. On the approach of an advanced party from the central division, consisting only of thirty-seven infantry, and seven gentlemen on horseback, they were fired upon by the sentries, and the insurgents were at once formed in good order, and were commanded to fire. But their situation so affected them, that they apparently staggered. Advantage of this panic was taken by the late Judge Sedgwick, whom they well knew, who rode to their front and directed them to lay down their arms; which many of them did, while others fled; though a firing took place between scattering parties on both sides, and two of the insurgents were wounded. The southern and northern divisions, having farther to march, did not arrive at this place in season, but had an opportunity to take many of the insurgents prisoners as they fled. On the return of the divisions to Stockbridge, it was found that eighty-four, among whom was their leader, had been taken. These were kept under guard, while the troops traversed the County.

The express related this affair to Gen. Lincoln. He also stated that the insurgents afterwards collected at Adams, but upon the approach of Gen. Patterson, separated, intending to collect again at Williamstown; that here also upon his appearing, they were again scattered; that there seemed, notwithstanding, such a disposition in them to embody, in order to prevent the sitting of the courts, and that such numbers were actually on their way to Washington, under a Major Wiley, that Gen. Patterson thought his situation unsafe, and earnestly requested assistance from the army. On receiv-

ing this communication, in connection with Gen. Patterson's letter, Gen. Lincoln sent back the following reply:

"*Petersham, Feb.* 6, 1787.

Dear Sir—I have been honored with the receipt of yours of yesterday's date. Shays Saturday afternoon left Pelham in the evening. I received information of his movement, put the troops in motion, and arrived here Sunday morning, 9 o'clock. Upon our approach, he left this place in a very precipitate manner. One hundred and fifty fell into our hands. He moved through Athol northerly; the last information I had of him was near Chesterfield, in the State of New Hampshire, with about 100 men. The rest were dispersed, and many returned to their own homes. This gives me an opportunity to remove as fast as possible towards you. I shall commence my march for Hadley to-morrow morning. No time will be lost in throwing a very sufficient force into your County. I shall have the pleasure to come with the troops. The General Court have conducted with great spirit and dignity; they have fully approved the measures taken—they will provide for the expense of it. They have declared a rebellion to exist, and have ordered the Governor to keep up a force until the rebellion is fully crushed.

Take some strong post, if you consider yourself in danger, until I can relieve you. Should you think it advisable to attack the insurgents prior thereto, warn them of their danger; and that the General Court has declared a rebellion to exist, and that if they do not surrender, they will be considered as open enemies, and treated as such. I am, &c.

B. LINCOLN.

Gen. PATTERSON."

According to his promise, Gen. Lincoln marched immediately for this County, passing through Amherst, Hadley, Chesterfield, Worthington, and Partridgefield, to Pittsfield; while another division of the army, under Gen. Shepard, marched by a different route to the same place. But before their arrival, a body of insurgents, amounting to about 250 men, who had collected in Lee, in order to stop the courts, agreed to disperse,

in case the commander of a body of militia, consisting of about 300, collected to oppose them, would use his influence, should they be pursued by government, to have them tried within their own county; and so the matter was adjusted. From Pittsfield, Gen. Lincoln detached a party under the Adjutant-General to Dalton, after Wiley; and another under Capt. Francis to Williamstown, on a similar undertaking. Both returned the next day; the first with six prisoners, one of whom was Wiley's son, Wiley himself having made his escape; and the other with fourteen.

From these events, we are not to infer that the spirits of the insurgents were altogether broken. The subjoined letter of Eli Parsons, (probably intended for the disaffected in Hampshire) as well as some other events which followed, show the contrary.

"*Berkshire, Feb.* 15, 1787.

Friends and Fellow Sufferers—Will you now tamely suffer your arms to be taken from you, your estates to be confiscated, and even swear to support a constitution and form of government, and likewise a code of laws, which common sense and your consciences declare to be iniquitous and cruel? And can you bear to see and hear of the yeomanry of this Commonwealth being parched, and cut to pieces by the cruel and merciless tools of tyrannical power, and not resent it even unto relentless bloodshed? Would to God, I had the tongue of a ready writer, that I might impress on your minds the idea of the obligation that you, as citizens of a republican government, are under to support those unalienable rights and privileges that the God of nature hath entitled you to. Let me now persuade you by all the sacred ties of friendship, which natural affection inspires the human heart with, immediately to turn out and assert your rights.

The first step that I would recommend, is to destroy Shepard's army, then proceed to the County of Berkshire, as we are now collecting at New Lebanon, in York State, and Pownal, in Vermont State, with a determination to carry our point, if fire, blood, and carnage will effect it. Therefore, we beg that every friend will immediately proceed to the County of Berkshire, and

help us to *Burgoyne* Lincoln and his army. I beg this may immediately circulate through your county.

I am, gentlemen, in behalf of myself and other officers, your humble servant,

ELI PARSONS."

The volunteer companies in Berkshire, on Gen. Lincoln's arrival, returned to their homes. The time for which the militia was detached, expired on the 21st of February, and the troops under the new enlistiment, which had been ordered, did not arrive at once in considerable numbers. In one instance, the General was left with only about thirty men. Though the rebels may not have known precisely his situation, they were watching for opportunities to do mischief.

On the 26th of February, Capt. Holcomb marched from Sheffield to head quarters with a company of drafted men, with the best arms that could be obtained. Learning this fact, a body of the insurgents, under Captain Perez Hamlin, who had been lurking about the borders of New York, 80 or 90 in number, made an irruption the night following into Stockbridge, at midnight, which they pillaged at their pleasure, and took a great number of the most respectable inhabitants. The next morning they proceeded with their booty and their prisoners to Great Barrington, where they halted at a public house, near the Episcopal church. News of this irruption was soon communicated to Sheffield, runners spread the news, and the citizens friendly to government met at the centre, with such arms as they could muster; and about 1 o'clock, being joined by Captains Dwight and Ingersoll, and a small company from Great Barrington, who had fled before the insurgents, they were prepared to advance northwards to meet them. The whole body, making 80, was under the command of Col. John Ashley, the late Gen. Ashley, of Sheffield.

The insurgents were now supposed to be coming down to Sheffield, and various rumours were abroad as to the course they were taking. It was at first said they were coming down on the meadow road, and then that they had turned off by the Episcopal church westward, and were making their way, through Egremont, out of the County. Upon hearing this, Col. Ashley turned

to the left, passed hastily on to the back road, and then turning by Archer Saxton's, drove furiously for Francis Hare's, in Egremont. He had scarcely passed the brook north of the quarry, when it was announced that the insurgents were in the rear, coming after them. They had been marching towards Sheffield on the back road, but hearing of the government forces, had turned at Saxton's in pursuit of them, just after Col. Ashley had diverged at that place. A halt was immediately made, the sleighs were thrown out of the way, and an attempt made to form the companies. After a few moments of great confusion, Capt. Goodrich directed the Sheffield company to follow him through a lot of girdled trees, on the west side of the road; and the Great Barrington company, under Capt. Ingersoll, advanced through a copse of timber on the east. By this time, a scattering fire commenced, and continued while the companies were advancing, with a rapid march, fifty or sixty rods, when a well-directed fire from eight or ten who were foremost, upon a considerable body of insurgents in the road, discomfited them, and put them to flight. The whole body dispersed at once, and fled in different directions. They left two of their number dead near the place of action, and more than 30 were wounded, among whom was Hamlin, their captain, and a man by the name of Rathbun, who died some time after of his wounds. A body of men coming on from Lenox, under Capt. William Walker, immediately after the skirmish, enabled the conquerors to take more than 50 prisoners. The loss to the militia was two killed and one wounded. One of the killed was a Mr. Porter, of Great Barrington; the other was Mr. Solomon Glezen, taken prisoner at Stockbridge. The person wounded was the late Dr. Burghardt, of Richmond. He was in the company of Capt. Walker, and was wounded by a small party who fired upon them before they arrived at the spot where the action was fought. It has been commonly supposed that Glezen was killed by the fire of some of his friends, in consequence of a barbarous practice, said to have been adopted by his captors, of putting the prisoners in front, as well to check the ardor of the militia, from a sense of their danger, as to screen *themselves*. A gentleman who was with Glezen when

he fell, has informed the writer, that the reason why the prisoners were in front, or near the front, was, that when they approached the place of action, the insurgents who had been forward, (many of them) turned aside to prepare their muskets. They may have done this through fear, but the situation of the prisoners was owing to this circumstance, and not to a preconcerted plan. Glezen fell just as the insurgents began their flight.

This skirmish took place over a little valley, now crossed by the Hartford turnpike, near the west line of Sheffield. It was more severe than any other which occurred during the Shays Insurrection.

The insurgents generally discovered great want of firmness and perseverance in the actions in which they were engaged, owing in part to their being poorly officered, but more, probably, to serious doubts concerning the lawfulness of their proceedings, and apprehension of their proving finally mischievous to themselves.

After the affair in Sheffield, Gen. Lincoln despatched an express to the Governor of New York, informing him of the incursion into this County, and of the continuance and support of the rebels in one district of that State; which produced prompt and energetic measures for dispersing or apprehending them. The consequence was, that they fled to Vermont, where the government had been previously requested to lend their aid in apprehending the rebel ringleaders; and where a proclamation from the Governor was issued about this time against them. Other States in the neighborhood adopted measures for suppressing the rebellion.

The cause of the insurgents had been for some time sinking. Very many privates gave up their arms, submitted to government, and took the oath of allegiance, agreeably to the proclamation which Gen. Lincoln issued at Hadley, both before and after his arrival at Pittsfield. Indemnity was granted afterwards to 790 persons concerned in the rebellion, by him and two other gentlemen, associated with him by the General Court for that purpose. It was judged necessary, however, to take a different course with some who had been more deeply concerned in opposing government. Early in the *spring, therefore*, the Supreme Judicial Court

proceeded to try a number charged with treason. Six were then convicted of this offence in this County, six in Hampshire, one in Worcester, and one in Middlesex; all of whom were sentenced to death. Besides these, large numbers were convicted of seditious words and practices, many of whom were persons of consequence, and one a member of the Legislature, who was sentenced to sit on the gallows with a rope about his neck, to pay a fine of £50, to give bonds for keeping the peace and for maintaining good behaviour for five years; which sentence was put in execution. Of those condemned to death, four in this County and four in Hampshire received a free pardon on the 30th of April; and the rest, on the 17th of May, were reprieved until the 21st of June, then until the 2d of August, and then again until the 20th of September. Those confined in Berkshire, finally escaped from gaol, and the others, as reasons for severe measures were now passed away, were pardoned. One man, however, in this County, sentenced to death in October, was favored only with a commutation of punishment, to hard labour for seven years.

In September, 1787, the military forces which had been kept up in the western counties, where the insurrections principally took place, were all discharged, and peace and tranquillity were considered as restored.

Too much, however, had been said and done, to permit the feelings of the people at once to become altogether friendly. Unhappy jealousies remained in neighborhoods and towns. The clergy, who had favored the Revolutionary war, opposed the rebellion, and thereby offended, in some instances, many of their parishioners. This is understood to have occasioned the dismission of the ministers in Egremont and Alford. The Congregational church in the former town remained destitute of a pastor for nearly thirty years, and the church in the latter, after dwindling for a time, became extinct. From the same cause, disaffection arose against their minister from a part of the congregation i Sandisfield.

It is generally thought, however, that this rbellion impressed the importance of an energetic national gov-

ernment, and hastened the formation and adoption of the present Constitution of the United States.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.—This County was settled generally by the descendants of the Puritans, and provision was made from the beginning for the support of public worship.

In most of the towns, the great body of the settlers were Congregationalists; in three or four a majority were Baptists. Among these a few individuals were scattered, attached to the forms of the Church of England, and prior to the Revolutionary war, meetings were held according to these forms, by a missionary from the Society in England for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, in Great Barrington, Lenox, and Lanesborough. Between 1783 and 1790, a few Methodists arose, who have since spread extensively in the County. Besides these denominations, there is a Society of Friends or Quakers in Adams, a society of Shakers in Tyringham, and another in Hancock.

The Congregationalists have at this time 26 churches, 23 of which are supplied with settled pastors: they have 24 houses for public worship, most of which are large and in good repair, furnished with steeples and bells; a number are new.

The ministers of this denomination, residing in the County, then five in number, formed themselves into an association for mutual improvement, in 1763. Most of the ministers since settled in the County have attached themselves to this body; though a few, as a matter of convenience, have joined the Mountain Association. For many years a number of ministers belonged to it from some neighboring towns in the State of New York. All the settled Congregational clergymen in the County at this time belong to it, excepting those of Washington, Peru, and Hinsdale. They are happily united, and the churches under their care also, in the in the belief of the great doctrines of the Reformation.

The Association holds two sessions annually, on the second Tuesday of June and October, at such places as are agreed upon from time to time. It formerly held a session in February; but owing to the difficulty of travelling at that season, this was given up a few years since.

In these meetings, doctrinal and practical questions are discussed, advice given in cases of difficulty, the state of churches is considered, measures are devised for promoting religion, and candidates for the ministry are examined and licensed.

This has a connection with the General Association of Massachusetts, and through that, a connection with the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in other parts of our country.

A few years ago, an attempt was made to form the Congregational churches connected with the Association into a consociation. In the Association, the clergy only meet. In a consociation, the churches meet, by their delegates, with the clergy. The plan commends itself to the good sense of most men. It has been attended in other places with many advantages, drawing the hearts of ministers and private christians more closely together, and prompting them to greater union and effort in building up the kingdom of Christ. But as this attempt was unpopular at the time, from the operation of certain local causes, it did not receive the general approbation, even of the churches. Only about half of them agreed to adopt it, and the subject was dropped.

For a view of the Congregational churches on the 1st of January last, the reader will consult the subjoined table.

| CHURCHES. | Organized. | No. of Memb's. Jan. 1, 1829. | | | Admitted, 1828 | | | Removed, 1828 | | | Baptized in 1828. | | No. in Sabbath School | No. in Bible Class. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Males | Femal. | Total. | By prof. | Rec'n. | Total | By death. | Dismiss. | Excom. | Adults | Infants | | |
| Sheffield. | 1735 | 81 | 198 | 279 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 130 | 125 |
| Egremont. | 1770 | 13 | 48 | 61 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 60 | 10 |
| Great Barrington. | 1743 | 52 | 119 | 171 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 20 | 240 | 60 |
| Stockbridge | 1735 | 65 | 154 | 219 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 180 | 25 |
| Stockbridge, N. Soc. | 1824 | 33 | 51 | 84 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 80 | 30 |
| West Stockbridge. | 1789 | 21 | 74 | 95 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| Tyringham. | 1750 | 62 | 106 | 168 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 60 | 0 |
| New Marlborough. | 1744 | 68 | 131 | 199 | 28 | 1 | 29 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 14 | 25 | 80 | 0 |
| New Marlboro' S. P. | 1794 | 25 | 44 | 69 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 42 | 0 |
| Sandisfield. | 1756 | 80 | 125 | 205 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 110 | 30 |
| Becket. | 1758 | 69 | 125 | 194 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 26 | 200 | 20 |
| Otis. | 1810 | 53 | 77 | 130 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 90 | 10 |
| Richmond. | 1765 | 63 | 137 | 200 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 100 | 20 |
| Lenox. | 1769 | 163 | 245 | 408 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 250 | 0 |
| Pittsfield. | 1764 | 165 | 398 | 563 | 17 | 4 | 21 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 16 | | |
| Dalton. | 1785 | 28 | 74 | 102 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 50 | 0 |
| Washington. | 1772 | 22 | 48 | 70 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 60 | 30 |
| Lee. | 1780 | 137 | 224 | 361 | 21 | 6 | 27 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 38 | 230 | 70 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lanesborough. | 1764 | 25 | 45 | 74 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 100 | 30 |
| Williamstown. | 1765 | 157 | 269 | 426 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 315 | 0 |
| Peru. | 1780 | 45 | 65 | 110 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 105 | 25 |
| Windsor. | 1772 | 35 | 79 | 114 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 130 | 0 |
| Hinsdale. | 1795 | 53 | 91 | 144 | 18 | 2 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 100 | 18 |
| Adams. | 1827 | 10 | 18 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 60 | 60-30 |
| Savoy. | 1811 | 18 | 38 | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| Florida. | 1814 | 3 | 12 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| 26 Churches. | Total, | 1546 | 2999 | 4545 | 164 | 53 | 217 | 64 | 103 | 5 | 63 | | | |

NOTE.—The Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes are differently organized and instructed. Some churches have no Bible Class distinct from the Sabbath School. In Adams, the class is instructed by a Biblical lecture.

*The Baptists* have 20 churches, and 14 houses for public worship, besides a right in several *union* houses. They are Calvinistic in sentiment, and enjoy the services of 7 settled pastors, and 4 or 5 ordained elders and candidates, who preach in different churches for longer or shorter periods. Formerly, some were connected with the Shaftsbury, and some with the Westfield Association, and through those bodies with the Massachusetts Baptist Convention; a few were unassociated. In May, 1827, the *Berkshire County Baptist Association* was formed, by delegates from ten churches. It now embraces fourteen, though one of the churches is at New Lebanon Springs, in the State of New York. To this body laymen are sent as delegates, as well as clergymen. It holds one session annually in May, beside which the ministers hold quarterly meetings.

The following table will show when most of these churches were formed, and very nearly the present number of members. The number of members is taken mostly from the printed minutes of the second anniversary of the County Association, held in May of the current year, and from the notice of the Shaftsbury Association in the minutes of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention, held in October, 1828.

*Berkshire Association.*

| *Churches.* | *Formed.* | *No. of members.* |
|---|---|---|
| Tyringham and Lee, | 1827 | 37 |
| Sandisfield, 1st church, | 1779 | 54 |
| Becket, | | 50 |
| Pittsfield, | 1801 | 102 |
| Lanesborough, | 1818 | 35 |
| Cheshire, 3d church, | 1824 | 45 |
| Williamstown, | 1813 or 14 | 43 |
| Windsor, | 1823 | 55 |
| Hinsdale, | 1797 | 76 |
| Adams, 1st church, | 1808 | 99 |
| do. 2d, | 1826 | 47 |
| Savoy, | 1787 | 101 |
| Florida, | 1810 | 26 |
| | | 770 |

*Shaftsbury Association.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sheffield, | | 19 |
| Egremont, | 1787 | 133 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| West Stockbridge, | about 1792 | 42 |
| Sandisfield, 2d church, | 1788 | 124 |
| | | —318 |

*Unassociated.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cheshire, 1st church, | 1769 | about 30 |
| do. 2d, | 1771 | |
| Hancock, | about 1768 | about 30 |

The *Episcopalians* have four churches, four houses for public worship, and three clergymen.

| *Churches.* | *Instituted.* | *Present No. of Communicants.* |
|---|---|---|
| St. James' church, G. Barr., | about 1760 | about 100 |
| Trinity church, Lenox, | about 1767 | about 35 |
| St. Luke's church, Lanesborough, | 1767 | about 50 |
| Otis Episcopal church, | 1828 | 9 |
| | | —194 |

The *Methodists*, (who have six houses of worship, and a right along with other denominations in several more) are universally the followers of Wesley. Most of them are still Episcopal Methodists; though a few years since, a minority here, as well as in other parts of the country, withdrew from their brethren, and styled themselves *Reformed Methodists.* The ground of separation was a difference of opinion in regard to church government and discipline. While they did not believe that episcopacy was binding upon them by the Scriptures, the Reformed Methodists complained especially of the power of excluding members from the churches, the power of excommunication, possessed by circuit preachers. They deemed this too enormous to be placed in the hands of individuals, even of ministers of the gospel, as very liable to abuse, and as often greatly abused, as contrary to the gospel, and as opposed to the great principles of our free institutions.

Most of the Methodist preachers are circuit preachers, and supply several churches in rotation.

There are portions of five circuits, belonging to the Episcopal Methodists in this County, viz: Salisbury, Tyringham, Pittsfield, Petersburgh, and Leyden circuits, connected with the Rhinebeck and Troy districts, and the New York Conference. In Pittsfield, and in some other places, they are numerous: classes exist in *the greater* part of the towns. Complete returns have *not been* received from all the circuits; but from the

statements of a number of the preachers who are now labouring in them, the members in all the classes in the County must be from 8 to 900.

The *Reformed Methodists*, according to the minutes of the Eastern Conference, published in 1825, (since which they have not greatly varied,) have five societies in the County, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sheffield | Society, composed of | 30 members. |
| Tyringham | do. | 15 " |
| Pittsfield | do. | 30 " |
| Cheshire | do. | 36 " |
| Savoy | do. | 15 " |
| | | 126 |

The Quakers and Shakers do not admit of any outward ordinances. "The society of Quakers in Adams was formed in 1780, and has about 30 families belonging to it." The Hancock society of Shakers contains about 270 souls, and the Tyringham society about 100.

While the preceding denominations include the great mass of people in the County, it must be confessed, that individuals may be found in different places, who do nothing for the support of the gospel; who rarely, if ever, attend upon its institutions, and who would be heathen, were it not that christians live about them. The lamentable situation of many persons of this description, may be traced to an abuse of the *tax laws* of the Commonwealth, respecting the maintenance of religious worship. Unwilling to pay their proportion of these taxes, though bound to do it by civil and moral obligations, or offended by something which had occurred in the societies to which they belonged, they have certificated from one denomination to another, but in truth have joined none. The pride of self-consistency, combined with the causes now named, has kept them from returning to the societies from which they have withdrawn, and to others they have felt little attachment. Public worship has therefore been gradually forsaken, and finally abandoned; and their children, in many instances, have grown up in ignorance and sin. If it be right and expedient to place the support of the gospel on

the same ground of public good with the support of schools and the support of government itself, and for civil rulers to call upon the people to pay for its support in proportion to their property, or as the Lord has prospered them, then the laws of the State on this subject ought to be revised, and so altered, that individuals, from the influence of mere selfishness, or sudden passion, shall not evade them, and bring mischief upon themselves and families, and upon community. Let all be taxed according to their property, the law reserving to individuals the right of having it applied to the support of preaching in the denomination to which they belong, or which they prefer, and in case of no preference, to the principal denomination in the town, and they would be likely to attend upon preaching, from the influence of the very consideration that they support it, if no other should operate upon them. The tax need not be placed so high as to preclude all contributions, where people wish to make them; nor so as to interfere with the different sums deemed suitable to be raised in different places.

County Societies, Religious and Moral.—The *Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society* was formed Feb. 21, 1798, for the purpose of sending the gospel to new and destitute settlements in our land, and was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts, Nov. 27, 1816.

This may now properly be considered as a society of this County, because almost all its present members live within our limits. It formerly had many supporters, as might be supposed from its name, in the adjoining county of Columbia, in the State of New York, who are now throwing their contributions into the treasury of benevolent societies, more recently formed, within their own bounds. Aid was also obtained from some other parts of the country.

The funds of the Society from the beginning up to April, 1829, amount to $13,776 03. These have been derived,

| | |
|---|---|
| From the annuities of members, $1 each, | $2261 50 |
| donations of individuals, | 799 15 |
| public contributions, | 2918 41 |

| | |
|---|---|
| charitable societies, | $2818 10 |
| legacies, | 1505 80 |
| profits on sale of Panoplist, | 216 00 |
| do. Vincent's Catechism, | 13 00 |
| collections of missionaries, | 3240 17 |

Of the donations, ten dollars a year, for thirteen successive years, were received from a friend of missions in Williamstown; ten dollars a year, for four successive years, from a female friend of missions in Catskill, New York, and twenty at another time, (as was supposed,) from the same individual, and one hundred dollars from Mrs. Sarah Taylor, of Upion, New York.

The contributions and donations of Charitable Societies were received from the following towns:

| | *Contributions.* | *Dona. of C. S.* | *Total.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sheffield, | $103 22 | $23 37 | $126 59 |
| Great Barrington, | 2 10 | | 2 10 |
| Stockbridge, | 424 22 | 334 38 | 758 60 |
| West Stockbridge, | 71 70 | 16 71 | 88 41 |
| Tyringham, | 17 77 | 4 00 | 21 77 |
| New Marlborough, | 101 67 | 151 86 | 253 53 |
| Sandisfield, | 23 00 | | 23 00 |
| Becket, | 97 70 | 4 25 | 101 95 |
| Otis, | | 10 12 | 10 12 |
| Richmond, | 101 39 | 237 77 | 339 16 |
| Lenox, | 186 86 | 92 00 | 278 86 |
| Pittsfield, | 443 20 | | 443 20 |
| Dalton, | 37 07 | | 37 07 |
| Washington, | 14 78 | | 14 78 |
| Lee, | 341 56 | 367 17 | 708 73 |
| Lanesborough, | 55 18 | 37 05 | 92 23 |
| Williamstown, | 35 00 | 168 50 | 203 50 |
| Williams College, | 20 00 | | 20 00 |
| Windsor, | 20 34 | 34 07 | 54 41 |
| Hinsdale, | 13 10 | | 13 10 |
| *Hampshire and Hampden Counties.* | | | |
| Goshen, | 15 39 | | 15 39 |
| Middlefield, | 144 49 | 17 59 | 162 08 |
| Chester, | 53 97 | | 53 97 |
| *State of New York.* | | | |
| Canaan, | 98 21 | | 98 21 |
| Chatham, | 50 91 | 30 00 | 80 91 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Catskill, | $63 87 | $203 51 | $267 38 |
| Greenville, | 172 68 | 6 43 | 179 11 |
| Durham, | 20 06 | 42 00 | 62 06 |
| Kingsborough, | 43 23 | 171 99 | 215 22 |
| Spencertown, | 19 07 | | 19 07 |
| Green River, | 36 16 | | 36 16 |
| New Lebanon, | 27 97 | | 27 97 |
| Hudson, | | 150 75 | 150 75 |
| Windham, | | 23 78 | 23 78 |
| Cairo, | | 69 50 | 69 50 |
| Delhi, | | 5 00 | 5 00 |
| Walton, | | 33 25 | 33 25 |
| Lewis, | | 32 38 | 32 38 |
| Aux. Miss. Soc. of Montgomery and Saratoga counties, | | 268 18 | 268 18 |
| Cornwall, Vermont, | | 62 54 | 62 54 |

*Legacies.*

| | |
|---|---|
| From Rev. John Stevens, of New Marlboro', | $50 00 |
| Mr. Benjamin Tobey, of Canaan, N. Y., | 200 00 |
| Mr. Joel Baldwin, of Williamstown, | 110 00 |
| William Williams, Esq. of Dalton, | 20 25 |
| Woodbridge Little, Esq. of Pittsfield, | 100 00 |
| William Ingersoll, Esq. of Lee, | 205 55 |
| Ashbel Strong, of Pittsfield, | 300 00 |
| Mr. Nathan Wright, of Middlefield, | 500 00 |
| Rev. James Davis, | 20 00 |

Some of the missionaries employed by the Society have labored statedly in particular places for several months, and have not related minutely their services. Where they have itinerated, they have given an account of their services from day to day. They have been engaged by the week, and have laboured in all 2013 weeks. Deducting the stated labours, just mentioned, they have preached 8882 sermons, attended 1383 conferences, made 15050 family and 631 school visits, formed 23 churches, and admitted, beside the admissions when churches were formed, 231 persons into the church, administered the Lord's supper 196 times, and baptized 1004 persons, adults and infants. They have also attended many church meetings and funerals, distributed many religious books, procured by the Society,

either by purchase or solicitation, and established several charity libraries.

The Society holds its annual meeting on the third Tuesday in September, at such place as is agreed upon by the members. Besides meeting on this day, the Trustees have a semi-annual meeting in April.

The operations of the Society have been performed generally in the destitute parts of the State of New York. For several years past they have been diminished for the want of funds, occasioned by the rise of other benevolent institutions. The Society, however, richly deserves patronage, and it is hoped will be instrumental of accomplishing much good hereafter.

The *Berkshire Bible Society*, auxiliary to the American Bible Society, was organized June 17, 1817. According to the constitution then adopted, the members (at first 64 in number,) were to pay annually into the treasury one dollar each; and the money was to be expended, as far as necessary, in the purchase of Bibles for the supply of the necessitous among ourselves and on our borders, and the residue was to be transmitted as a free donation to the parent institution. The condition of membership was too high for the people at large, and many subscribers were not obtained. Those who subscribed, being widely dispersed, but few attended the anniversaries, and little interest was felt, compared with the importance of the subject. In order to raise the Society, efforts were made in the winter of 1827–8, agreeably to the recommendation of the Managers of the National Society, to form Branch Societies in the various towns and parishes, of such persons as should be willing to pay any sum, more or less, for the Bible cause, whose presidents and delegates should constitute the County Society, and which should have depositories of Bibles among themselves, supplied by the County depository, where the members might receive their subscriptions, should they wish it, in part or in whole, and purchase Bibles at cost, and where the poor might be gratuitously supplied. A considerable number were formed, which brought nearly 1100 dollars into the treasury in May following. At this anniversary, the Society voted to conduct their proceedings in future upon the new plan proposed by the Managers of the National Bible Soci-

ety. That their collections might not interfere with the collections for Foreign Missions, which are made in the spring, it was also voted at this meeting that the anniversary of the Society shall be on the first Wednesday immediately succeeding the first Sabbath in January. This arrangement will doubtless prove, on the whole, beneficial to the interests of the Society. But it brought the anniversary in January last so near the anniversary in 1828, that two Branches, whose aid may be confidently expected in future, did not make any collection for the occasion; and the collections of some others were diminished. Several new branches, however, were formed, and the whole amount collected exceeded 1200 dollars.

The whole sum collected by the Society, from its organization up to January 7th, 1829, and on that day, is $3806 18¼; of which $1697 78 have been transmitted, as a donation, to the National Society, and $2015 24¼ (including incidental expenses) have been paid for the purchase of Bibles and Testaments for distribution in the County. A small balance remains in the treasury.

The whole number of Bibles and Testaments purchased from the beginning, is 4137; the whole number distributed up to this time, (July 24) is 3686, leaving 451 now on hand.

As it may be gratifying to know what the Branches severally paid at the anniversaries in 1828 and 1829, the subjoined table is given. A few Branches which did not pay on the day, or near the day of the anniversaries, may not be found on this list.

| *Branches.* | *Sum in* 1828. | *Do.* 1829. |
|---|---|---|
| Sheffield, | $ | $82 15 |
| Egremont, | | 13 06 |
| Stockbridge, | 87 01 | 90 64 |
| do. North Society, | | 54 52 |
| West Stockbridge, | 54 46 | 43 58 |
| Tyringham South, | 19 28 | |
| do. North, | | 11 56 |
| New Marlborough, N. Parish, | 16 92 | 31 34 |
| do. South, | | 30 00 |
| Sandisfield, | 87 77 | 45 73 |
| Becket, | 10 00 | 34 22 |
| Otis, | 39 80 | 36 72 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Richmond, | $70 84 | $50 40 |
| Lenox, | 161 92 | 100 00 |
| Pittsfield, | 143 18 | 205 66 |
| Dalton, | 38 00 | 21 00 |
| Washington, | | 15 03 |
| Lee, | 81 83 | 109 31 |
| Lanesborough Con. Society, | 11 87 | 48 00 |
| do. Episcopal, | | 21 29 |
| Williamstown, | | 24 40 |
| Peru, | 97 21 | |
| Windsor, | 73 41 | 56 48 |
| Hinsdale, | 81 61 | 43 85 |
| Savoy, | | 35 12 |
| | 1075 16 | 1204 06 |

This Society, if duly sustained by different denominations of Christians, will accomplish much good. It is a matter of convenience to have a deposit of Bibles of different sizes and types, in every town and parish. These are sold at cost, and lower than they can be afforded by individuals and private companies. Besides, the plan proposed by the National Society, if faithfully prosecuted, (and to be faithfully prosecuted, it must be aided by its various auxiliaries, larger and smaller,) promises the best results to our country and to the world.

The anniversaries are held at Lenox.

The *County Education Society* for aiding indigent pious young men in their education, preparatory for the ministry, was formed July 6, 1818. The annual meeting is at Lenox, on the third Wednesday of May. It is auxiliary to the American Education Society, to which its funds have been transmitted. These have been derived from the following sources, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| From the annuities of members, a dollar each, | $345 00 |
| life members, | 230 00 |
| students in Williams College, | 44 50 |
| an aged lady in Richmond, | 30 00 |
| a person unknown, avails of ornaments sold, | 11 60 |
| legacy from the Rev. Daniel Collins, of Lenesborough, | 50 00 |
| contributions from churches, congregations and societies in several towns, viz: | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Stockbridge, | $159 98 | |
| Sandisfield, | 78 19 | |
| Otis, | 8 37 | |
| Lenox, | 53 13 | 1363 07 |
| Pittsfield, | 585 40 | |
| Lee, | 356 39 | |
| Lanesborough, | 47 80 | |
| Peru, | 73 81 | |
| divers individuals and places, mostly small sums, | | 134 74 |
| | | 2208 31 |

Since the Society has been in operation, individuals and associations in various parts of the County, whose liberality does not appear in this account, have aided youth of the above description with money, board, and articles of clothing and furniture.

At the last anniversary of the Society, a committee was appointed to devise ways and means for establishing a school in the County, on the same general principles with the school at Whitesborough, in the State of New York, in which indigent young men of pious character and fair promise, especially such as shall have the ministry of the gospel in view, shall have an opportunity to support themselves by labouring on a farm, or at some mechanic art, certain hours daily, while prosecuting their studies, to fit themselves for college, or for entrance upon business for life, should not some or other of the learned professions be contemplated. In the opinion of many judicious and pious men, it is better for the individuals themselves and for the cause of religion, to place indigent youth in circumstances to support themselves, than to undertake to aid them by donations or loans of money.

The *Berkshire Missionary Society*, auxiliary to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, was formed at Pittsfield, June 15, 1825, by delegates from the town associations, which had been formed the preceding winter and spring, by Mr. Geo. Cowles, an agent of the Board. For many years previous, some individuals and churches had contributed liberally for the support of missions abroad. In the hope of obtaining stated and generous contributions from the

churches at large, the associations were established. In most of the towns there are both male and female associations, which make separate contributions yearly. The County Society, composed of delegates from the male associations, meets on the second day of the June session of the Berkshire Association of Congregational Ministers, that is, on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday in this month. It meets of course where the Association meets. In connection with the contributions of the associations, the donations of individuals, and of some other benevolent societies, collections at the monthly concert, &c., are sometimes given. In the table which follows, the sums from these sources, where they have been given, are put together, under the contributions of the male and female associations.

| | 1825. | 1826 | 1827. | 1828. | 1829. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sheffield M. A. | $52 35 | $40 00 | $47 00 | $57 26 | $41 44 |
| do. F. A. | 73 03 | 50 00 | 58 44 | 58 08 | 46 96 |
| other con. | | 22 00 | 28 | 26 20 | |
| Egremont. | 10 87 | 10 27 | 6 62 | 6 82 | 5 75 |
| | 14 10 | 12 44 | 12 42 | 4 26 | 5 02 |
| Great Barrington | 38 00 | 17 78 | 22 62 | 26 13 | 23 00 |
| | 37 00 | 35 13 | 32 34 | 30 75 | 40 00 |
| | | 7 00 | 2 42 | | |
| Stockbridge. | 29 25 | 45 18 | 54 63 | 41 93 | 47 64 |
| | 51 89 | 43 22 | 53 31 | 58 35 | 62 65 |
| | | | | 10 | |
| do. M. Society. | 30 22 | 19 09 | 23 76 | 18 02 | 24 20 |
| | 22 00 | 14 21 | 13 95 | 11 30 | 18 87 |
| | | | 7 33 | 4 09 | |
| W Stockbridge [con. | | 21 40 | 16 56 | 15 86 | |
| Tyringha— South. | 18 00 | 12 62 | 15 12 | 10 84 | 6 59 |
| | 35 12 | 30 96 | 24 88 | 23 46 | 19 20 |
| N. Marlboro' N. P. | 35 00 | 12 00 | 42 10 | 24 34 | 27 61 |
| | 34 00 | 19 00 | 40 75 | 29 25 | 24 64 |
| do. South | 14 92 | | | | |
| | 6 20 | 7 71 | 9 32 | | |
| | | 1 50 | 3 79 | | |
| Sandisfield. | 64 70 | 33 50 | 23 00 | 43 15 | 28 45 |
| | 62 69 | 45 80 | 38 25 | 41 58 | 44 00 |
| | | | | 1 25 | |
| Becket. | 17 00 | | 21 28 | 11 10 | 14 00 |
| | 21 00 | 12 80 | 15 92 | 14 66 | 14 00 |
| Otis. | 19 00 | 8 98 | 26 50 | 7 67 | 9 98 |
| | 19 34 | 9 72 | | 15 13 | 14 10 |
| Richmond. | 50 00 | 18 84 | 36 00 | 16 50 | 16 00 |
| | | 31 46 | 84 60 | 22 00 | 22 00 |

| | 1825. | 1826 | 1827. | 1828. | 1829. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lenox. | $79 26 | $67 36 | $103 52 | $51 08 | $58 93 |
| | 60 80 | 51 80 | 71 95 | 42 46 | 41 25 |
| | 22 00 | 8 44 | 12 | 60 10 | 59 25 |
| Pittsfield. | 98 25 | 103 55 | 76 88 | 141 00 | 74 26 |
| | 61 93 | 58 02 | 92 70 | 132 89 | 60 52 |
| | | | 81 42 | 90 64 | 72 16 |
| Dalton. | 11 72 | 13 19 | 23 81 | 25 50 | 24 37 |
| | 32 07 | 27 35 | 21 75 | | |
| | | | 1 | | |
| Washington. | 20 | | | | 2 22 |
| Lee. | 99 78 | 74 42 | 87 90 | 85 36 | 96 64 |
| | 73 84 | 41 22 | 57 61 | 46 18 | 50 05 |
| Lanesborough. | 11 37 | 20 50 | 22 13 | 15 96 | 27 07 |
| | 23 75 | 14 47 | 30 00 | 17 83 | 25 37 |
| | | | | 9 67 | |
| Williamstown. | 58 29 | 62 00 | 71 69 | 57 21 | 63 58 |
| | 72 41 | 76 2' | 75 42 | 55 05 | 62 25 |
| | | 15 86 | 13 00 | 28 50 | 28 00 |
| Peru. | 48 33 | 45 00 | 53 00 | 52 93 | 36 61 |
| | 22 67 | 18 00 | 26 00 | 26 10 | 25 31 |
| Windsor. | 53 07 | 47 50 | 61 46 | 54 00 | 44 00 |
| | 51 83 | 53 00 | 54 00 | 51 00 | 44 00 |
| Hinsdale. | 49 15 | 51 13 | 60 00 | 46 91 | 47 25 |
| | 41 62 | 46 87 | 39 18 | 28 36 | 39 07 |
| Coll. at anniversary. | | 40 | | 261 40 | 5 82 |
| | 1747 82 | 1478 30 | 1816 23 | 2009 21 | 1544 08 |
| Ded. bad notes. dis. | 17 00 | 15 00 | 1 75 | 5 00 | 3 12 |
| | 1730 82 | 1463 30 | 1844 48 | 1004 21 | 1540 96 |

At the anniversary in 1828, the members greatly regretted that the collections of the associations fell short of what they were the year preceding. To remedy the evil, the collection stated, was obtained on the spot. At the last anniversary, the occasion for regret was greater; and it became a matter of inquiry and discussion what should be done. In the result, the Society voted;

That they would use all lawful measures to persuade the members of the associations to double their subscriptions the next year; particularly to persuade all professors of religion, male and female, to contribute to the glorious object of spreading the gospel through the world.

On the 24th of April, 1828, the organization of the *Berkshire County Sabbath School Union*, auxiliary to

the Massachusetts Sabbath School Union, took place at Lenox. The objects stated in the constitution are, to promote the establishment of sabbath school associations in all the towns and parishes in the County; to open new and increase the existing schools within the limits of the County; to open an easy channel of communication with all the schools in the connection, by which improvements in the mode of teaching, and all the advantages suggested by experience, may be speedily and simultaneously introduced; to furnish destitute schools with a small library, when the funds of the Union or the circumstances of the schools shall justify such a measure; to stimulate and encourage the friends and patrons of sabbath schools in the instruction of the ignorant; to correspond with the Massachusetts Sabbath School Union in Boston, and to transmit its surplus funds to that institution.

The Society held its first anniversary at Lenox, on the 20th of May last. Hitherto it has done little more than to send out committees to visit the sabbath schools in the County. Should suitable measures be adopted, it may be instrumental of much good to the rising generation, and to the community at large. For although sabbath schools now exist in nearly all our towns and parishes, and are patronized by different denominations of Christians; although they are furnished, in many instances, and perhaps in all, with libraries, larger or smaller, and are exerting a happy influence, there is no doubt that the number of scholars may be greatly increased, and the instruction rendered much more thorough and useful. The condition of membership is, the contribution of something annually to its funds. Five dollars, contributed at one time, constitutes the contributor a member for life.

On the 25th of June last, the Auxiliary Union of Berkshire County for promoting the observance of the Christian Sabbath, to be connected with the General Union formed in the city of New York in 1828; and the *Berkshire Temperance Society*, auxiliary to the American Temperance Society, were organized at Lenox. Thus recently organized, nothing can be said of their proceedings; but a vast field of usefulness is opened before them.

The sabbath is probably observed as generally and as faithfully in Berkshire, as in almost any other part of the country. But still a lamentable departure is observable here from the exemplary conduct of our fathers, and a greater one from the strictness and holiness prescribed in the word of God. Aside from the neglect of the institutions of public worship, chargeable on no inconsiderable number, many persons do not scruple to travel on the Lord's day, when, in their judgment, either convenience or interest require it. Some here and others there, drive loaded teams back and forth to the market towns on the Hudson, and scarcely a finger is raised to punish the enormity. Though post-offices are not often opened, and stages do not often travel, yet we are far from being secure from evils from these quarters, unless the public mind can be aroused to the duty and importance of sanctifying the Sabbath. The great means which the Society proposes to employ for effecting their design, are; the influence of personal example, of moral suasion, with arguments drawn from the oracles of God, from the existing laws of our country, appeals to the consciences and hearts of men, and fervent supplications to the Lord of the Sabbath. The people at large need to be shown that the best interests of individuals, temporal and spiritual, of families and communities, are connected with remembering the sabbath-day, and keeping it holy.

The subject of temperance has excited much attention in this County, as well as in other parts of the country, for one or two years past. Several spirited and popular publications on the subject have been extensively circulated, addresses, resolutions and anecdotes have been sent abroad in the weekly papers; the clergy have preached and exhorted, and followed their instructions with a correspondent example; the members of the bar have resolved to abstain from the use of spirituous liquors; the Medical Society have protested against them; associations have been formed in many places for promoting temperance; some merchants have abandoned all traffic in intoxicating liquors, and others refuse to sell them in those small quantities in which they are more generally purchased by tipplers and drunkards; farmers, manufacturers and mechanics, not a few,

carry on all their business without them; some military companies have agreed to dispense with them on days of parade and review; and very generally an important reformation is begun. In the County at large, the consumption of spirits has been greatly reduced, and many thousands of dollars have been saved from vice to be applied to useful purposes, while the happiness of families and the good order of neighborhoods have been exceedingly promoted. Still the public are not adequately awake to the importance of this subject; the necessity of being *temperate in all things*, to advance our own happiness to the greatest possible degree, and especially to gain a sure title to an *incorruptible crown*, is not felt as it should be; we have not sufficient abhorrence of intemperanee in all its stages, nor a full view of its deleterious consequences on every thing good in this world, aud on the immortal hopes of man. Very few fully understand how much of the pauperism they are taxed to support, is owing to this sin, nor how many of the destitute who are hanging upon them now for help, and are candidates for the poor-house, are dependent from the influence of the same iniquity. The Temperance Society have a great work before them; and it concerns them to enter upon it in good earnest, and to prosecute it by timely and judicious measures to its consummation. The reformation which is begun, must be extended. Public opinion must be roused more and more into action by moral and religious considerations. Every means of instruction and every vehicle of information must be made to bear on the subject. And if drunkards after all, will, in most instances, persist in their iniquity, and go down to destruction, yet one and another of these wretched creatures may be snatched as brands from the burning; and it is not too much to hope that the great mass of community, especially the rising generation, may be secured both from the guilt and the consequences of intemperance.

From what has been stated, it appears that a share of the Christian benevolence and enterprize which distinguish the present age, exist in this County. And yet these statements give an imperfect view of the subject. Several charitable associations of more limited extent than those which have been named, exist among us.

A small Bible Society has existed several years in the town of Great Barrington. The Baptists and Episcopalians, while they unite with the Congregationalists in supporting the County Bible Society, contribute for the support of missions and other benevolent objects in connection with their own denominations in other parts of the country. The Methodists also contribute to the circulation of the Bible, and for other objects, according to the plan adopted by the Methodists generally in the United States. The Quakers and Shakers have the same character with us that they have elsewhere, for liberality to the poor and distressed.

Nor is there any danger that charitable efforts will impoverish us as a people. No facts exist that justify the apprehension. *There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty.* Individuals habitually engaged in doing good, are often signally blessed of God. Those churches and congregations which do the most for spreading the gospel, are far more prosperous than others. Our charities ought to be more abundant, for our own present well-being, as well as for advancing the kingdom of God. The principles of religion and the signs of the times demand that they should be increased.

REVIVALS OF RELIGION.—Berkshire has been greatly blessed by effusions of the Holy Spirit. Prior to the period in which revivals became frequent in the country, several towns were visited by these effusions: for thirty or forty years past, most of the towns, and perhaps all, to some degree, have been visited, and many of them repeatedly. Sometimes the inhabitants of one place, and sometimes the inhabitants of several contiguous places have enjoyed together a refreshing from the presence of the Lord. In 1821, about midsummer, a cloud of mercy spread over a large portion of the County, and a multitude of souls, as far as man can judge, were made meet for the kingdom of God: and again in the close of 1826 and beginning of 1827, all the congregational, and some churches of other denominations, were brought into a state of deep solemnity and of humble and earnest prayer, and hundreds of

sinners *were renewed in the spirit and temper of their minds.* The far greater proportion of members now in the churches, whether learned or unlearned, in the higher or lower walks of life, date back their hopes to these visitations of mercy; and so far as they exemplify the religion of the gospel, bear testimony to their genuineness and value.

It cannot indeed be pretended that all who were solemnized and convicted in these seasons, who entertained hopes, and even made a profession of Christianity, became converts. This is more than can be affirmed of the revivals which took place under the immediate ministry of Christ and his apostles. But that the great body who were believed by ministers and the more intelligent christians at the time, to have been converted, and who were received into the churches, have conducted in such a manner as to be entitled to charity, cannot be fairly questioned. Many have given the most decisive proofs of piety by their devotion to the service of God, by abounding in faith and in good works, in the various relations and departments of life. Some have already passed calmly and triumphantly *through the valley of the shadow of death*, trusting in their divine and blessed Redeemer.

Nor can it be pretended that all the inhabitants have been perfectly pleased with these revivals. All were not pleased with the revivals recorded in the New Testament. Some who laid claim to superior talents, to high sanctity, to a thorough acquaintance with the Scriptures, and who even ministered at the altar, found fault with them, and vilified and persecuted those under whose instrumentality they were produced and extended. Nevertheless the Lord owned them. Most persons in this County have acknowledged revivals to be the work of God. Such has been the awe upon their own minds, that few have dared at the time openly to oppose them.

It has been supposed that great caution should be used in the admission of persons to the church, who obtain their hopes in the time of a revival. This is undoubtedly true; and great caution should be used in admitting them where they obtain their hopes *singly and alone.* Neither the subjects nor the church are bene-

fitted by hasty admissions. The difference between a solitary conversion and a revival, lies in this: in the former case, a single individual is brought to repentance, faith and new obedience; and in the latter, a number living contiguously are brought to these duties about the same time. None ever repent and believe the gospel, unless their minds are drawn intensely towards their personal and everlasting concerns. The prayers of the publican and prodigal prove this, and many other facts in the Scriptures. In this excited and anxious state, unless the best instructions are given, there is danger that the movements of the animal passions will be mistaken for the operations of grace. But it remains yet to be proved that the subjects of revivals have not as generally as others adorned religion in their lives. The celebrated William Ward, of Serampore, when in this country a few years since, made diligent inquiry concerning the subjects of revivals, and learned from the best sources of information, that they very generally live according to the gospel. Can more than this be affirmed of those who are taken, *one of a city, and two of a family, and brought to Zion?* Another gentleman of sterling piety and good sense, who has been more conversant with revivals than any other man living, and who has been in the habit of comparing the lives of the subjects of revivals with those of persons visibly converted at other times, gives it as his decided opinion, that the former have *outshined the latter.* "If genuine religion," says he, "is not found in revivals, I have no evidence that it exists in our world."

The great means, under which revivals have begun and spread in this County (as is true elsewhere,) has been the clear, faithful preaching of the word, especially of the leading truths of the gospel. Connected with this, the Lord has owned and blessed the confessions and supplications of his church, social meetings for conference and prayer, the visitation of families by ministers and private christians, and the expostulations of good men, like those of Philip with Nathaniel.

The successive revivals will constitute a prominent and interesting article in the history of the towns.

EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES, &c.—The judicious laws of the Commonwealth have made abundant provision for the education of children in the primary and higher schools. These laws have to a great degree been observed through this County. The towns are uniformly divided into school districts, 225 in all, in each of which is one common school, and in several, where the population is dense, more than one, in which the children are taught for several months of every year by instructors paid from money raised by a tax for this purpose. Most districts employ male instructors for a few months in the winter or cold season of the year, and female in the summer. In this system are two evils—too little regard, in some instances, to the qualifications of the teachers, literary and religious, and too little money raised for their support. To remedy the latter evil, the children of the more wealthy are educated another portion of the year at schools supported by subscription. To alleviate the former, in part, in many of the towns, one or more *select* schools are supported where some children enjoy better advantages for instruction. Higher schools, approaching the character of regular academies, are supported by individuals in some of the towns, perhaps in all the principal ones. Many of the clergy have been in the habit of giving instruction to a select class in the languages.

In 1827, the *Berkshire County School Society* was formed, for the purpose of improving our common schools. It is unspeakably desirable that this laudable design should be accomplished.

At Lenox is an incorporated Academy, which has long sustained a very respectable standing. The instruction has generally been judicious and thorough. It was incorporated by the name of *Berkshire Academy*, in February, 1803; but the name was changed to that of *Lenox Academy*, in June following.

In Pittsfield is a *Female Academy*, incorporated in 1807; which commenced its operations on a new and improved plan, April 20, 1827, and promises to rank with the best institutions of the kind. It is placed under the superintendence of a gentleman, assisted by accomplished female teachers. Instruction is to be given in all the substantial as well as elegant branches of fe-

male education. Provision is made for the boarding and particular care of young ladies from abroad in the Seminary, and with the family of the Principal. Besides the large school-room in the lower part of the building formerly used by the second Congregational Church for the worship of God, there has been erected a large brick building of three stories, for the use of the Principal and the boarding department; containing also convenient rooms for study.

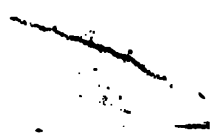
The *Berkshire Gymnasium*, established in this town, has been in operation nearly two years, though not incorporated until the commencement of the present year. For the accommodation of teachers and pupils, three large and elegant brick buildings have been erected, on the ground formerly occupied as a cantonment by the government of the United States. A view of these is presented in the accompanying plate. This school is under the superintendence of Prof. C. Dewey, assisted by teachers in the usual English branches of education, Mathematicks, Philosophy, Greek and Latin, and the modern languages. It is conducted on the general plan of the *Gymnasia* of Europe, and it is designed to enable the pupil to obtain a more complete education in a shorter time, by employing more teachers and more hours in study; and by various exercises for the body, to give strength and firmness to the constitution, and elasticity and energy to the mind; and by particular watchfulness and attention to morals and manners and religious duties, to form the pupils to a high and noble character, and the performance of the great duties of this active and interesting age. It has been so far successful in its operations. It educates lads and young men of fair character, and prepares youth for college or for business.

In 1823 an Academy was incorporated in Williamstown; and in the same year, another was incorporated in Stockbridge. Though the latter has not gone into operation under the incorporation, a school of the nature of an Academy has existed in that town for the most part for several years.

*Williams College*, in Williamstown, was incorporated June 22, 1793, and held its first commencement in 1795, on the first Wednesday in September, which is

BERKSHIRE GYM

memorable victory over the enemy.



still its anniversary. It was thus called, in honour of Col. Ephraim Williams, a native of Newtown, now Newton, near Boston, and eldest son of Col. Ephraim Williams, who afterwards was one of the first settlers of Stockbridge, and a justice of the Court of Common Pleas in the county of Hampshire.

Col. Williams, the younger, led for a number of years a seafaring life; but was induced to relinquish it by the persuasion of his father. In his several voyages to Europe, in which he visited England, Spain, and Holland, he acquired graceful manners, and a considerable stock of useful knowledge. In the war between England and France, which continued from 1744 to 1748, he distinguished himself as commander of a company in the army raised in New England for the Canada service. After the peace, he retired a while to Hatfield, but was soon appointed commander of the line of Massachusetts forts on the west side of Connecticut river, and resided principally at Fort Massachusetts, which stood not far from the north-eastern end of Saddle mountain, on the north border of the Hoosic, in the edge of Adams, three and an half miles from Williamstown. Under the protection of this fort, and a small one in Williamstown, which stood a few rods north-west of the present site of the meeting house, the settlers in this section of the County began their improvements. Col. Williams, who owned considerable land among them, was much conversant with them, witnessed their dangers, difficulties and hardships, and for the purpose of encouraging them, intimated an intention of doing something liberal and handsome for them at a future time. In the second French war, in 1755, he was colonel of a regiment, and was ordered to join Gen. Johnson at the north. On his way to that station, on the 22d of July in that year, he made his will at Albany. On the morning of the 8th of September following, he was ordered out at the head of a scouting party, 1200 strong, and was shot through the head by an ambush party of French and Indians, near French mountain, a little east of that point of Lake George on which Fort George was built in 1759, in the 42d year of his age. His detachment returned to the main army, which the same day obtained a memorable victory over the enemy.

In his person he was large and full, easy in his address, and pleasing and conciliating in his manners. He was brave and skilful as an officer, and much beloved by his soldiers. He was employed in advancing the settlements in some of the towns in the County, and had an uncommon share of influence at the General Court. He had also a taste for books, and often regretted his want of a liberal education; a circumstance which may have dictated the provision in his will.

In this, after several bequests to his relatives and friends, he directed, "that the remainder of his land should be sold, at the discretion of his executors, within five years after an established peace; and that the interest of the monies arising from the sale, and also the interest of his notes and bonds, should be applied to the support of a Free School, in a township west of Fort Massachusetts, forever; provided said township fall within Massachusetts, upon running the line between Massachusetts and New York, and provided the said township, when incorporated shall be called Williamstown:" otherwise it was to be applied to certain other pious, and charitable uses. Both of these conditions took place.

The executors of the will sold the land agreeably to the directions of the testator, and by their provident and faithful management the fund was annually increased. In the year 1785, they applied to the General Court for an act to enable them to carry into effect the benevolent intention of the testator; and an act was accordingly passed, incorporating a Free School in Williamstown. Nine gentlemen were appointed trustees of the fund and of the school, viz: William Williams of Dalton, Theodore Sedgwick, Woodbridge Little, John Bacon, Thompson Joseph Skinner, Esquires, the Reverend Seth Swift and Daniel Collins, Mr. Israel Jones and Mr. David Noble, who voted in 1788 to erect a building for its use. The Legislature granted them a lottery, which yielded about $3500, the inhabitants of the town raised by subscription $2000 more towards the building, and in 1790, the brick edifice (now the west college) was built on the middle eminence in the principal street, 82 feet long, 42 broad, *four stories*, containing 28 rooms and a small chapel.

The expense of the building was about $11,700, and the funds then remaining at interest amounted to about the same sum.

The school was opened in October, 1791, under Mr. Ebenezer Fitch, a native of Canterbury, Conn., who had been a tutor at Yale College. It consisted of two departments, an Academy or grammar school, and an English free school; and under the direction of this gentleman, immediately became prosperous. A considerable number of students resorted to it from Massachusetts, and the neighbouring States, and even from Canada. Upon the desire of the people of Williamstown and others, and to effect more perfectly the object of the donor, the Legislature, in June, 1793, erected this into a college, and accompanied the charter with a grant of $4000. The trustees of the original school, together with Henry Van Schaack, Esq., of Pittsfield, Elijah Williams, Esq., of Deerfield, and the Rev. Stephen West, were constituted trustees of the College. In the charter it was provided that the trustees might be seventeen in number, (of whom the President *ex officio* is one,) that they might fill their own vacancies, and hold property, the annual income of which shall amount to $20,000. Mr. Fitch, now the Rev. Dr. Fitch, was elected President, and the college began its operations in October of this year, by the admission of three small classes. The English free school was discontinued, but the Academy continued for some years in connection with the College. In 1794, a lot was purchased and a house built for the President, which together cost $2400. In January, 1796, the Legislature granted to the President and Trustees, two townships of land in the district of Maine, which were sold in May for about $10,000; which, with a considerable sum besides, were applied in 1797 and 8 to build the east college. This stands on the eastern eminence in the principal street, about 60 rods from the other college, on the south side of the road. This is also of brick, 104 feet long, 28 broad, four stories, containing 32 suites of rooms. Both colleges front the east.

Two townships have since been granted to the College, and sold less advantageously. The College also received from the Commonwealth three thousand dol-

church and society in West Bloomfield, N. Y., where he still resides.

President Moore, upon his resignation in Sept. 1821, became the President of the Collegiate Institution at Amherst, now Amherst College. He died June 30, 1823, in the 53d year of his age. He was a native of Palmer, and a graduate of Dartmouth College; studied theology with Dr. Charles Backus, of Somers, Conn., and was settled as pastor of the church in Leicester from 1798 to 1811; during a part of which time he was the principal preceptor in Leicester Academy. From the time of his leaving Leicester until his inauguration as President of Williams College, he was Professor of Languages in the college at Hanover. He was a sound classical scholar, had a very happy talent both in instructing and governing youth, and possessed great moral worth. A memoir of him was published in the Christian Spectator, in the number for September, 1823.

The number of graduates from the College is about 700, of whom about 200 have entered into the ministry of the gospel. Many have gone into the professions of law and physic. Though the College has suffered in point of numbers by the repeated efforts to remove it to the region of Connecticut river, it has on the whole been prospered, and has accomplished much good for the church of God and for the world. The number of undergraduates for several years has varied from 80 to 120. Among those who have exerted a powerful influence in the benevolent operations of this period, may be mentioned the names of the Rev. Samuel John Mills, the active friend of oppressed Africa; and of the Rev. Gordon Hall, late missionary at Bombay. Others have also filled and are occupying important missionary stations; and many are filling important offices in civil life.

With this College, the Berkshire Medical Institution at Pittsfield is connected. This was incorporated in June, 1823.

Prior to this, and other similar establishments in our country, young men, after going through an Academic or Collegiate course, were prepared for the practice of *physic by studying* for a time with some private practi-

sing physician. The late Dr. Erastus Sargeant, of Stockbridge, fitted many for their profession. A considerable number were instructed by some other physicians of eminence in the County.

In January, 1787, several physicians in Berkshire formed a *Medical Association*, "for the purpose of observing and communicating those things which might be for the improvement of the art of physic, and of encouraging a spirit of union among the faculty, and of rendering it the more respectable." This association held its last meeting in June, 1796.

In 1820, the *Massachusetts Medical Society for the District of Berkshire*, was formed. It consists of all the fellows of the General or State Society, and all such licentiates of the General or District Societies as reside in the County. The Society has an annual meeting in May, and a semi-annual meeting in October. Censors are appointed in the County by the parent Society, or rather by the Councillors of the State Society, whose business it is to examine candidates for the profession, and whose approbation is indispensable, that they may practice physic, and collect debts for medical services, according to the laws of the Commonwealth.

The reader will find a list of the physicians in the history of the several towns.

The Berkshire Medical Institution is managed by its own Board of Trustees; but the degree of Doctor of Medicine is conferred upon its alumni by the President of Williams College, either at the annual Commencement of the Medical Institution, on the last Thursday in December, or at the Commencement of Williams College. The Medical Institution has a course of medical lectures, beginning on the first Thursday in September and continuing fifteen weeks to its Commencement. It has also a Reading Term for resident students, with recitations, and demonstrations from the resident Professors, which commences on the first Wednesday in March, and excepting a vacation of two weeks in May, continues to the last Wednesday in August. This Medical Institution has received the confidence of the public beyond most of the similar institutions of the same age. Beginning in the year 1822 with a class of about 25, it soon had a class of more than 100

attending the Lectures. The course of instruction is extensive, judicious, and practical. Great efforts and sacrifices have been made on the part of the Professors to make the course of instruction very complete. The reading term is of great consequence to the medical student. The *recitations* demand an attention which is not commonly required in the method of medical education, and the *demonstrations* both give and apply facilities and experience and tact.

The Medical Faculty is composed of a
Professor of Anatomy and Physiology,
" Theory and Practice of Physic,
" Theoretical and Practical Surgery,
" Materia Medica and Obstetrics,
" Medical Jurisprudence,
" Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy, and Natural Philosophy.*

Two edifices belong to the Berkshire Medical Institution. The one is a large building of three stories, for rooms and a boarding establishment. Another large building contains several rooms for students, besides a laboratory, lecture room, anatomical theatre, with a fine skylight, a room for the cabinet of preparations and wax imitations, and another for the cabinet of minerals and collection of subjects of natural history. There is a Lyceum of Natural History connected with the Institution, and formed by its trustees, according to the act of the Legislature. At the commencement of the Institution, about $3000 were raised by subscription, and $5000 were subsequently given to it by the Legislature.

* It is worthy of serious consideration whether the employment of a clergyman of the right character as to talents, wisdom and piety, during term-time, would not add to the usefulness of the institution: one who should conduct a devotional exercise with the students at a stated hour morning and evening, who should give a course of Biblical lectures, who should point out the infinite importance of piety to them, not only as men, but as persons designed for a public profession, that they might be like Luke the *beloved physician*, and other physicians of blessed memory; and who should by argument, anecdote, and exhortation, occasionally published in the papers, call the attention of Christians to the great duty of praying particularly for Medical Institutions.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TOWN-HOUSE, MEDICAL INSTITUTION, AND BOARDING-HOUSE.

PITTSFIELD.

Besides these means of education, a considerable number of youth of both sexes, and especially of females, are annually sent from the County to some of the academies or higher schools in the cities, or other places, for the perfection of their education. By an examination of the catalogues of several Colleges, it appears that more than thirty young men from this County are annually receiving a public education at some of the Colleges. This fact, while it shows the attention to education, proves that the College in the County does not receive all that patronage which it merits, and which the good of the County requires.

The establishment of libraries in many towns, has been another important means of diffusing knowledge. Many of these libraries have indeed been divided among the proprietors, since the greater multiplication of books, and especially of *periodical* works. The consequence is, that while there is more reading than formerly, there is far less reading of the substantial authors in the English language. The subject of *town* libraries demands new attention. Though there are many difficulties in carrying into effect the measures which are in this way designed for the public good of the people, it is not a point to be doubted, that the good to be effected by such libraries demands and authorizes much sacrifice and large expenditures of patience and perseverance on the part of the more affluent and influential. The influence in elevating the character of the people has been the more fully proved in those places where the object has received the most and the longest continued attention.

The first printing office established in the County was at Stockbridge, and the paper then issued was called the *Western Star*. This paper (weekly) commenced in the autumn of 1788. It has been continued with little interruption. For some years it has been called the Berkshire Star. In 1828 it was removed to Lenox, and printed as the Berkshire Star and County Republican.

The *Sun* was commenced a few years later at Pittsfield, and has continued to the present time. Another weekly paper was printed for several years at Pittsfield and then discontinued.

In 1826, the *Berkshire American* was commenced at Pittsfield; and in Feb. 1827 was removed to the N. Village in Adams. The *Argus* soon succeeded the American at Pittsfield.

The *American Advocate*, another weekly paper, was issued from the press April 12th, 1827, at Williamstown. This paper is designed to be employed in part for the diffusion of religious intelligence.

At no period, probably, have greater efforts been made to enlighten the people generally than at the present. Let the citizens increase these efforts till education and intelligence are brought to the lowest individual. Rarely is the person to be found, who was born and bred in the County, who cannot *read*, and write, at least his own name; let the time be seen when all can read and write, so far as the business of life requires.

General Character of the People,—Improvement in Manners—Amusements.—In view of facts already stated, this County may be regarded as composed of a very intelligent and moral, and, relatively considered, religious population. The literary and pious institutions and customs of our fathers have sent down a blessed influence, which has reached until the present time, notwithstanding the evil moral tendency of the Revolutionary war and Shays insurrection, the party politics that have sometimes raged, and other unhappy events. Our scattered settlements and general employments are favorable to good morals. The repeated revivals, affecting many of the influential men & families, and very many of the substantial yeomanry, have had a mighty and most beneficial effect upon the whole community. The distribution of tracts, and various literary and religious publications, is producing great improvement among persons of all ages; while sabbath schools, with their libraries, are accomplishing the greatest blessings for the young. Benevolent exertions by their re-action, are doing immense good among ourselves.

The operation of these and other causes has produced a considerable change in various particulars. Works on infidelity, or of an irreligious and immoral tendency, which were once abundant, have become very rare

among the people. The character of the books read by children and youth has been changed within a few years greatly for the better. The *vulgar* and *barbarous* practices of horse-racing, cock-fighting, and boxing, never prevalent in the County, have become nearly extinct. The dregs of society alone think of the two last with any favor, and the first is scarcely thought reputable in the better part of society. Gambling, once prevalent among a portion of the citizens, is rarely known, and when practised, is made literally, as it is *morally*, a *work of darkness.*

Dancing, though still a fashionable amusement, is less general, while *balls* are conducted on better principles. The lateness of the hour to which they are generally continued, and the exposure of the health, especially of the females, still make them no inconsiderable evils. Were religious *evening* meetings to be thus protracted, even without the exposure of health, they would receive very general reprobation. The grand objection to this amusement, however, is its known tendency to dissipate the mind, and unfit it for serious reflection.

The shooting of turkeys, &c., as an amusement, is continued in some places, and attended with some disorder and with the brutalizing of the feelings of those who allow themselves in the cruel and barbarous indulgence.

The progress of more enlightened principles and the influence of moral causes, are diminishing the evil practices, and preparing men for the higher object of acting consistently with their rational natures.

The days regarded by many of the people as seasons of amusement and relaxation, are the day of the *Election* of the Governor, the anniversary of our Independence, the *General Training*, the Cattle show and Fair of the Agricultural Society, and to some extent, the day following the annual Thanksgiving.—Christmas is rarely observed, except by those who are Episcopalians, as it is a point generally considered as settled, that the day on which our saviour was born can not be ascertained. The day of the New Year receives some attention—but the people are more in the habit of extending their "*compliments*" through the several seasons than of confining them to any particu-

lar one. To a certain portion of society, the exhibitions at the academies or higher schools, and the annual commencement of the College, afford an opportunity for relaxation and literary intercourse and amusement.

Playing at *ball*, in its variety of games, is practised occasionally by many. The game of ball, called *wicket*, has been one of great interest in some parts of the County, enlisting the feelings and rousing the efforts of the old and young. Wrestling is rare as an amusement. Fishing and hunting are followed by all whose taste or pursuits allow them the indulgence.

COMPARATIVE RATABLE PROPERTY OF THE TOWNS —TRADE—BANKS, &c. The ratable property of the County, on page 14th of this work, according to returns made in 1822, is stated to be $316,671. Agreeably to the valuation then made, the towns rank as follows, beginning with the highest, viz: Pittsfield, Sheffield, Williamstown, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, Adams, Lanesborough, Stockbridge, Cheshire, New-Marlborough, Lenox, Richmond, Lee, Hancock, Tyringham, Becket, West Stockbridge, Dalton, Windsor, Hinsdale, Peru, Egremont, Otis, Alford, Washington, Savoy, N. Ashford, Mt. Washington, Florida, Clarksburg. Pittsfield is assessed at $29,852 77, and Clarksburg at $1218 63. The average assessment of the towns is $10,555 70.

The trade of the towns does not correspond entirely with their *ratable* nor *real* property. Much depends upon individual enterprise, the possession of water privileges, and various other circumstances. As a general fact, the towns on the Housatonic and Hoosic do the most business. A little trade is carried on with Hartford, and some other towns on Connecticut river, and a little with Boston. But the far greater portion of the trade is with the city of New-York, and the cities of Troy, Albany, and Hudson. The last mentioned markets are only about thirty miles from the principal towns in Berkshire.

Among the articles carried to market are butter, cheese, pork, lard, ham, beef (rarely,) leather, potatoes, onions, apples, poultry, rye, oats, beans, indian corn, flaxseed, barrels, staves and heading, pails and the like, timber for cabinet work, boards, plank, shingles,

potashes, essence of peppermint, ale, cotton and woollen goods, marble in immense quantities, lime, iron, hats, wool, &c.

More wheat is probably brought into the County than is carried out of it—also of iron, hats, &c. Other articles introduced into the County are too common to need notice.

It is impossible to state precisely the amount of articles, either in quantity or value, which are carried yearly from the County, and of those likewise which are introduced into it. An attempt was made a few years since to ascertain the amount in tons of the exports and imports to and from Albany, Hudson, Troy, and Hartford. Returns were made from 22 towns, and the result was a total of 18,475 tons. If we suppose the towns from which returns were not received, viz: Pittsfield, Richmond, Hancock, Windsor, Florida, New Ashford, Alford, and Mount Washington, to have a proportional share of trade, the total will be 25,193 tons, and the exports and imports, omitting fractions, will stand as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Exports of produce, | 8585 tons. |
| Do. of manufactures, | 7210 " |
| Imports of merchandize, for consumption, | 7302 " |
| Do. raw materials for manufactures, | 2091 " |

The Berkshire Bank, in Pittsfield, was incorporated in 1806, and failed in 1809. The *Agricultural Bank*, located in the same town, was incorporated in February 1818, with a capital of $100,000, and is in successful operation.

The *Housatonic Bank*, in Stockbridge, was incorporated in 1825. It has a capital of $100,000, and possesses the confidence of the public.

A charter for another bank, with the same capital, to be located in the North Village of Adams, was granted in 1828. This has not commenced operations.

These banks seem to be important from the increasing attention to manufactures. In the course of business, individuals will be supplied from some bank; and the profit, whatever it may be, is now retained in the County. At the same time, the citizens cannot be

too fully aware of the danger arising from the multiplication of these institutions. The subject is an *old one*, indeed; but the danger is renewed from day to day. It is not the *borrowers* of money, as a general fact, upon whom the country can depend; but dependence must be placed upon the substantial and independent farmer, mechanic, and labourer. *Mortgage* is certain to prove in the general, what the word signifies, a *death-gage* to the property upon which it is fastened, and to the prosperity of the man who allows it to be fastened upon his estate.

EMIGRATIONS—COLOURED POPULATION.—For fifty years the emigrations from this County have been almost perpetual. The people moved at first chiefly to Vermont, and then to the State of New York. About 1786, a company in Berkshire purchased ten townships about Chenango river, called the Chenango purchase. Many families removed from the County to those townships, one of which bears its name. Some have removed to Pennsylvania, to Ohio, Michigan, and various other parts of the United States; and some have removed to Canada, and become subjects of the British government. Formerly but few coloured persons were found in the County. A considerable number have come into it from the adjoining parts of the State of New York, where slavery was continued until 1827. Some came to escape from servitude, and others because they had become free, and wished to leave the land where slavery existed at all. Many of the *blacks* are respectable inhabitants, possessed of some education and some property; some are admitted to all the rights of freemen, and to all the privileges of the church. A large part of them, however, are idle, ignorant, poor, and vicious. Their situation demands the attention of the benevolent. The improvement of the *free coloured* population of our country ought to proceed equally with the grand effort to abolish slavery entirely. To these sons of Africa the whites owe an immense debt; and every proper measure should be adopted to improve their education and morals, to make them religious, respectable, and happy. The most careful and constant *attention* should be paid to their children: let them en-

joy all the benefits of the district and sabbath schools. Every town is deeply interested in ameliorating their condition.

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.—The number of paupers is considerable in every town, and will continually increase, unless by existing, or some other efforts, the progress of intemperance shall be stayed. While some are unavoidably and innocently destitute and dependent, the situation of most of them is clearly owing to intemperance and its kindred vices.

The expense of the poor in some instances will be given in the history of the towns. It is already great. In several towns they are supported at the sum offered by the lowest bidder. This seems to be an objectionable method; and yet many respectable men are of the opinion that the poor are made as comfortable in this way as in any other which has been tried, while the expense is much less.

In what way economy and kindness can be most effectually united in the support of the poor is a question difficult to be settled. While none should be left to absolute suffering, those should be furnished with the greatest portion of comforts, who are poor by the *mere act* of Providence, and not from folly and vice. Every one should be employed in some business suited to his capacity and strength. All should be favoured with religious books and counsel, and placed where, if in health, they can attend the public worship of God.

DISEASES.—The diseases are generally of the *acute* kind. *Bilious* fever, *fever* and *ague*, *typhus* fever, croup, inflammation of the brain, peripneumony, dysentery, cholic, &c. Besides these rheumatism in several forms, jaundice, dyspepsia among those of sedentary habits, are often seen; gout, very rarely; consumption frequent.

In the summer and autumn of 1796, the dysentery and bilious remitting fever, then called *pond fever*, from its supposed origin in the miasma of a mill pond, (known at that time as Hubbard's mill pond,) near the centre of the town, was very fatal in Sheffield. In the early part of the season the dam was raised a foot or a

foot and an half, and the banks of the pond and stream, then covered with vegetation, were overflowed. The season was uncommonly hot, and heavy rains fell at intervals of 15 and 20 days, by which the water was successively raised, and then lowered by the letting off of the water at the mills. The sickness began in July, and continued and increased until the occurrence of frosts in October; during which about sixty persons died. The people who suffered, were within a mile and a quarter of the pond, on the *plain*, and in the neighborhood about the meeting-house. Those suffered the most who were nearest to the water. In other parts of the town, the inhabitants were healthy, few dying excepting such as had resided in the infected district. The dam has since been lowered, by an adjudication of the courts, and no similar calamity has occurred.

In 1802, the *canker-rash* was very fatal in Williamstown; and bilious fever prevailed there extensively in 1809, but was rarely fatal.

In 1811, the *spotted fever* was an alarming disorder in the north part of the County. This disease swept away many in all parts of the County *about* that time. No one disease has prevailed over the County at the same time.

The *meazles* and *whooping cough* walk their usual rounds.

The *small pox* has not been known in the County for many years. Many of the inhabitants have been vaccinated. It is a surprizing fact, however, that so few avail themselves of this protection; and an alarming consideration, that in view of the fancied security, the inhabitants are most extensively exposed to the ravages of this terrible disease, whenever it shall be suffered by divine providence to make its appearance. In such a case, it will be the more widely scattered, and prove the more fatal, because the physicians have been so long unacquainted with it, and so many of them have never seen it at all. The occurrence of the disease in several parts of the country, and the ravages it has made, have placed the stamp of reality on the truth just expressed, and render a more general practice of vaccination the interest and duty of all who place a just

estimate upon human life, and the preservation of the lives of their own families and friends.

In the history of some of the towns, bills of mortality will be given; from which it will appear, that many among us die at an advanced age, and that Berkshire must be considered as a healthy portion of the country.

CLIMATE—METEOROLOGY.—The climate is salubrious and healthful. The mean temperature of the year is about 46 deg. Farenheit. On the more elevated districts it is nearly a degree less, and in the lower towns it is a little greater. Situated on the west side of the range of the Green mountains, it is less affected by the north-east winds and storms, and the disagreeable easterly winds which are so much felt and complained of along the shore of the Atlantic and the interior of New England to Connecticut river. Owing to the situation of the mountains in the northern part of the County, the winds are very rarely from the north-east, and such winds are of short duration through the County; and from the direction of the Taconic range, very little *west wind* is noticed. The principal winds are from the north-west, from the south-west, from the south, and south-east. The wind is from the north-west through the day about 150 days in the year. These winds are cool, and dry, and invigorating. The proportion of winds from the four principal directions, are, on an average of four years, nearly in the following proportions, viz: north-west 600; south-west 105; south 156, and south-east 103. Dew or frost, showing the number of clear and still nights, occurs about 120 mornings annually. The mean quantity of water falling annually at Williams College for eight years, was about 34 inches, and is probably about the mean quantity which falls annually in the County. To this should be added for *dew* three or four inches.

The quantity of snow would seem to be less than fell in the early settlement of the County. The probability is that if the same quantity of snow falls on an average, less *sleighing* would be the consequence, for two reasons, depending upon the more extensive cultivation of the country, viz: that it would be more blown from the roads in an open country, and be more easily melt-

ed than in the woods. Add to these considerations the probability that the accounts of the great quantity of snow are those of the fall of great quantities in some particular years. It is certain that occasionally the streams and lakes and bays of the Northern States are frozen in the manner mentioned by our fathers, and the country covered to a great depth with snow and for many weeks. There is little evidence that the winters were uniformly severe.

The hard winter of 1780 is a matter of frequent remark among the oldest population. The great snow storm and abundant snow of 1804 are well remembered. On the 20th of March of that year, the sleighing was good, even through the lower parts of the County; the roads in many places so filled with snow, that the travelling was through the fields.

In 1810, an excessively severe storm and a most violent wind extended over the country. The change in the weather occurred in this County between 6 and 7 o'clock, P. M., and was followed the next day by what has been appropriately and emphatically called *the cold Friday.*

On Sept. 22d and 23d, 1815, occurred a memorable storm of wind and rain over the Atlantic States, in which the salt water of the ocean was in some instances blown thirty miles from the ocean, destroying the foliage of trees, and giving to vegetation the appearance of having suffered from a severe frost. This storm was severe in this County.

The cold spring and summer of 1816 will not soon be forgotten. Frosts occurred several times in each even of the *summer* months. The foliage was killed by frost in June over a considerable portion of the higher lands, so that for a few days the woods appeared to have suffered from fire. Snow fell on the 6th of June, and on the mountain towns, as Cheshire, Peru, Windsor, the snow was blown about as in winter, and travellers suffered from the severity of the storm. Ice was formed in many places to the thickness of window glass. On June 8th and 11th, the frost was severe. Vegetables in gardens were generally destroyed. Indian corn was cut down to the ground by the frost in many places; *though it soon* came forward again. In Aug. 29th, the

frost killed many fields of Indian corn on the low grounds. Though rye, wheat, &c., came to maturity, and the crops were pretty abundant, but little Indian corn ripened in the County. The greater portion was saved by cutting it up at the roots, and by placing it in an upright position, leaving it to ripen upon the juices of the stalk alone.

Jan. 17, 1817, there was a remarkable thunder shower, which extended from Quebec to Georgia, and was attended with rain or snow at different places. The lightning was frequent and brilliant, and during the fall of snow, the electric fluid appeared on animals, bushes, fences, and men, in the form of bright points, or as an *auroral* cloud of light. It was observed in Richmond, Williamstown, and other places. The following spring, vegetables suffered considerably from the *cut-worm*; but much less than in various other parts of the country.

For some years past there has been little sleighing. During the winter (1826 and 1827,) the snow was most abundant. Great snows fell at several times. The sleighing, except so far as the roads were blocked up by snow, was excellent, from the 23d of December. Only slight rains or thaws occurred, none of which effected more than the settling of the snow. The streams, however, did not become unusually low. The snow was thought by many to be in the woods about *four feet* deep. It was probably about 3 feet deep. It is rarely, by actual measurement, more than two-thirds or three-fourths of the supposed depth.

Although strong winds are not uncommon, it is rare that much damage is done by them in this County, even in the most violent thunder storms. Tornadoes are not common, and have always been of very limited extent. In 1809, a tornado, extending about half a mile in width and perhaps two in length, prostrated some of the orchards and some buildings about a mile south of the meeting-house in Stockbridge. A few years after, a violent whirlwind fell upon a small portion of West Stockbridge, passed in its course over Stockbridge and Lee, but too elevated to affect trees and buildings, and spent its violence on a hill in Becket.

The temperature is several times below zero, Far during winter. On two or three days it does not pass, or pass but little above zero. It is sometimes as low as 16° or even 23° below zero. In summer, it is on several days above 96°, though it rarely exceeds 97° F.

The summer of 1825 had many very warm days. The summer of 1828 was however the hottest that has occurred for many years. The following winter was the coldest for a long time. The formation of ice in mills and factories was a great and long continued injury this winter. The mean temperature of January, 1827, was 16°39 Far, which was colder than any January in the last twelve years. The following results from observations made at Williams College three times a day, viz. at *seven* A. M., and at *two* and *nine* P. M., the mean of which is ascertained to be very near the mean temperature of the day, will show about the mean temperature of the County at the times mentioned. The variation above or below the mean, is placed next the mean temperature of the several months for *eleven* years next preceding 1827.

| Jan. | Va | Feb. | Va | Mar. | Va | April. | Va |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mean 22,01 | 5,5 | 23.61 | 7,5 | 31,06 | 4,5 | 43,53 | 4,5 |
| May. | | June. | | July. | | Aug. | |
| 56,20 | 3.0 | 66.33 | 4,5 | 10.23 | 5,5 | 67,25 | 2,5 |
| Sept. | | Oct. | | Nov. | | Dec. | |
| 60.03 | 6.0 | 47,07 | 3,5 | 36,61 | 3,5 | 26,93 | 3,0 |

On an average, January is the coldest, and July the hottest month. The coldest month was February, 1718, when the mean temperature was for several days below zero, and the lowest—22°5, Feb. 11, on Wednesday. February, 1817, was also an exceedingly cold month; colder than any January, and but little less than that of Feb. 1818. Indeed some of the days were through the day considerably colder.

Feb. 1823, was uniformly a cold month, even colder than any preceding January; although the coldest days occurred in January.

The hottest weather in the above years was

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July, 1820, | the mean temperature being | 75°10 |
| July, 1825, | the mean temperature was | 74,94 |
| Aug. 1826, | do. | 69,01 |
| Aug. 1829, | do. | 68,99 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The mean temp. of the Winter months is | | 24,05 |
| " | Spring " | 43,59 |
| " | Summer " | 68,27 |
| " | Autumn " | 47,90 |
| The greatest cold ever observed at Williams College, was | | —28,0 |
| The greatest heat (in the shade,) | | 102,0 |

In this case, it is probable that the temperature was increased by reflected heat.

In great rains, the quantity of water varies from one inch to 1 1-2 inch in 24 hours; sometimes there falls water in about the same time to the depth of 2 or 2 1-2 inches. The greatest rain observed in the eleven years, fell in July 26 and 27, 1819, to the depth of 3.65 inches. It is common, indeed, for the people to remark that the rain falls to the depth of five or six inches; but for several years it was never found by the *rain-guage* to fall to the depth of three inches in a day. Indeed an inundation could scarcely fail to follow rain to this depth. As the water, which should fall equably three inches deep over a township six miles square, would fill a canal 40 feet wide, four feet deep, and 297 miles in length. Such a rain must be rare in this country.

In 1784, the *bursting of a cloud*, as it is familiarly called by the common people, took place on the west side of Saddle mountain, in what is called the *Hopper*. Much rain had fallen for several days, and the ground had become very soft. At length a *cloud burst*, or poured forth a great quantity of rain; the earth, trees, and loose rocks were swept down the mountain from an elevation of about 1400 feet, and a sudden deluge took place along the narrow valley at the bottom of the Hopper, and one house was swept away, the family having escaped. Owing to the opening between the hills, called the Hopper, heavy clouds are drawn by the wind against the west side of *Graylock*, many hundred feet below the summit, and are slowly raised over the mountain, often presenting the appearance of great difficulty in rising the steep ascent. These clouds, from the action of electricity, attraction, condensation, or some unknown cause in the atmosphere, pour down themselves in a violent shower. When the rain is sudden and very great, it is called the *bursting of a cloud*. This phe-

nomenon frequently occurs on Saddle mountain. In August, 1823, one occurred, by which the rocks and trees were carried down from an elevation of about 1600 feet, till the mass came to the dense woods towards the bottom of the Hopper, through which it forced a passage of a rod in width along a hollow, bearing away the largest trees in its course. At a distance, this passage looks like a road cut through a forest.

To those who have lived in a level country, the lying of the clouds along the mountains, far below their summits, or with these summits projecting above them, and presenting an endless diversity of form and colour, is a scene of high interest and much sublimity. To the hardy inhabitant this unvarying drapery of the mountains is too common to attract attention. The eye of taste, however, loves to fasten its gaze on these endless changes of form and hue. The moderate elevation of most clouds, is apparent from the fact, that those clouds which in the vallies appear to be relatively high in the atmosphere, touch Saddle mountain, Taconic mountain, and other high points, several hundred feet below the summit. The writer was once near the summit of Taconic mountain in a heavy thunder shower—the cloud rested on the mountain—for a few moments the darkness was appalling—and the streams of lightning seemed to be close at hand.

The distinctness with which *the line of congelation* is marked in the colder months along the mountains, is another interesting phenomenon. The trees are covered with ice from their summits downwards to a distance varying according to circumstances, and the line at which the ice terminates, now far down the side of the higher hills, now near the summit of the lower, and not touching those still lower, *often extends for miles apparently on a horizontal line.* The *gray-white* dress of the trees above the line, gives to the hills a majestic and venerable appearance. This phenomenon occurs under two opposite conditions. In autumn, or the beginning of winter, when the lower stratum of air is the warmer, rain falls in the vallies, but is frozen on the trees along the higher parts of the hills; and thus the *line of congelation* is distinctly drawn. The other case occurs in winter, when the lower stratum of air is the

colder, and the warmer air from the south or south-east pours down its vapour in the vallies, and in rain or sleet on the hills, which is frozen at a certain elevation, and the *line of congelation* made as perfect and distinct as before. This gray covering of the trees, seen in the clear rays of the sun, and its limit so accurately defined, and often continuing for days, is a magnificent spectacle, and ever admired by those in whom familiarity has not destroyed the interest, or taste for the beautiful ceased to operate.

When the hills and vallies are covered with ice, and a warmer temperature follows, the ice disappears in the vallies, and the line of congelation gradually ascends the hills, in the same distinctness, though not so regularly marked.

The progress of vegetation up the mountains in the spring, is also an interesting prospect. The expansion of the blossoms and foliage of the earlier trees takes place over the vallies to the foot of the hills, while their sides and tops present all the appearance, except that of snow, of winter scenery. The advance of the foliage up the mountains is clearly marked from day to day, although ten or twelve days will elapse before the tops of the highest manifest that the spring has returned, and "the time of the singing birds is come." When vegetation is delayed from the coldness of the season, the suddenness with which it advances up the hills on the more rapid increase of heat, is still more delightful. The progress is now rapid; and a broad zone of green is extended each day along and up the hills, presenting much of the magnificence of a *northern* summer. All nature seems labouring with her highest energies to show forth to wondering man the beauty and riches which the God of providence has in his bounty and mercy prepared for his creatures.

RETURN OF SPRING.—The return of spring, compared with other places, may be judged of by the usual time of the flowering of the following plants in the valleys and warmer parts of the County. The position of hills and the difierent exposure of plants, and the nature of the soil, affects the time of their flowering con-

siderably. Thus the vegetation is a week earlier in the more favourable parts of the valley of Williamstown, than in the broader valley of the Housatonic, twenty miles further south. The following plants flower nearly at the same time through the vallies. For the purpose of enabling the reader to make the comparison for one year, (and the relative times will be nearly the same) the following table exhibits the time of flowering in the spring of 1817, at several distant places. The times at all the places, except the one in this County, are taken from the paper of Dr. Bigelow on this subject, in the Memoirs of the American Academy, vol. iv. part 1.

## COMPARATIVE TIME OF FLOWERING OF SEVERAL PLANTS IN THE SPRING OF 1817

| | Williams-town. | Brunsw'k Maine. | Montreal, Canada. | Boston. | Albany. | New York | Philadel-phia. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Claytonia Spatulata. Spring Beauty. | Ap. 18 | | May 1 | | | Ap. 20 | Ap. 10 |
| Tussilago farfara. Garden colts'-foot. | 19 | | | | | | |
| Ulmus americana. Elm. | 21 | May 2 | May 10 | Ap. 20 | | Ap. 11 | |
| fulva. Slippery elm. | 22 | | | | | | |
| Pothos fœtida. Skunk cabbage. | 22 | | | | | | Mar. 13 |
| Acer rubrum. Soft maple. | 22 | April 28 | May 5 | Ap. 22 | | Ap. 11 | Ap. 10 |
| saccharinum. Sugar maple. | 22 | | | | | | |
| Sanguinaria canadensis. Blood-root. | 22 | | May 1 | Ap. 29 | | Ap. 26 | 15 |
| Hepatica triloba Liverwort. | 23 | | | 20 | Ap. 17 | | 6 |
| Caltha palustris. Cowslip. | 24 | | May 15 | May 2 | | Ap. 16 | 22 |
| Alnus serrulata. Black alder. | 24 | May 3 | | | | | Mar. 24 |
| Erythronium americanum. Addertongue | 26 | | May 14 | May 9 | | Ap. 15 | Ap. 14 |
| Leontodon taraxacum. Dandelion. | 30 | May 12 | 15 | 4 | | | 22 |
| Anemone nemorosa. Anemone. | May 2 | 5 | | 2 | | 19 | 15 |
| Aronia botryapium. Shad-flower. | 2 | | | 8 | | 26 | |
| Fragaria virginica. Strawberry. | 6 | | 15 | | 8 | | |
| Uvularia perfoliata. Bell-wort. | 3 | | 15 | | 13 | | |
| Aquilegia canadensis. Columbine. | 10 | | | | 1 | | |
| Pyrus malus. Apple. | 15 | 29 | 25 | 18 | 15 | 4 | 20 |

By an attention to this table, it is evident that the flowering of the same plants takes place in the lower parts of the County only a very little later than at Albany and Boston. It is probable that the time is a little later than appears from this table, from the particular and early examinations for flowers in Williamstown in the spring of 1817. It is certain at least that the lilac, apple, and some others, flower earlier at Albany than in this County, as a general fact. The influence of the ocean and of south winds, is felt sooner and more powerfully than in our hill country. The same is true of the crops; the time of harvest is a little earlier on the same parallel of latitude on the Hudson than in this County; and is a little earlier also in the vicinity of Boston. The difference is not however so great, as some reasons might lead us to anticipate.

GEOLOGY.—The *rocks* in Berkshire are wholly *primitive*. Except a small tract of *alluvial* along the Housatonic and Hoosic rivers and some of their tributaries, the whole County belongs to the primitive formation. No animal or vegetable remains have been discovered in any of its rocks or strata, and only a minute portion of coal, (anthracite, said to have been found in Cheshire, but doubtful) has ever been found. The principal rocks are *mica slate* and *limestone*. The former is indeed the principal rock in the County, and incloses in it the extensive beds of limestone. Several other primitive rocks are not unfrequent, and will be noticed in their place.

### 1. *Mica Slate.*

The range of mountains on the eastern part of the County, and extending west to the middle of the County, is almost wholly *mica slate*. It is very commonly of the *stratified* variety, but is obviously only *mica* and *quartz* intimately mixed and stratified. To this remark there is no exception; and this rock is found without interruption to any extent to the east part of Williamstown, New Ashford, Lanesborough, Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield; the western line of it pursuing a zigzag course, and following the singular course of the hills and vallies. It is then interrupted by *quartz rock* and *limestone* through

the whole extent of the principal valley north and south through the County, except that small hills of mica slate are often appearing, as if projecting through the limestone, or lying along the side of it. *Mica slate* is again the principal rock on the Taconic range along the western boundary of the County. So that mica slate may be considered the whole underlaying rock of this section. The strata of this rock every where dip and incline towards the east, at different angles of inclination in different places, but as a medium about 30 degrees.

The rocks associated with the mica slate, and many of them found in considerable quantity, are 1. *Hornblende rock.* embracing the several varieties of *primitive trap*, found in most of the towns on the eastern part of the County; 2. *Primitive serpentine*, and *soapstone*, found in Windsor; 3. *Talco-micaceous slate*, a rock containing *talc* mingled with mica slate, found along the base of the eastern range, but much more abundantly along the Taconic range, in most of the towns: 4. *Gneiss*, lying in a large bed, from the eastern part of Dalton and western of Peru, northwards several miles into Windsor, and in the south-east part of the County: 5. *Granite*, in blocks or large masses, or veins, in all the towns on the eastern part of the County: 6. *Granular limestone*, in small patches in various parts of the mica slate, but distinct from the general stratum of limestone: *Argillite*, associated in small quantity with the mica slate, but distinct from that to be mentioned hereafter: 8. *Sienite*, with the hornblende rocks, and small masses washed by the streams into the eastern part of the Housatonic valley.

The mica slate is often very *tortuous*, and sometimes occurs in thin strata in the limestone, as if it had been projected from below through the limestone.

### 2. *Quartz Rock.*

This rock may be only in beds in the mica slate; but as it occurs in great quantities, it is here treated of as a principal rock. It is found on both sides of the limestone, or associated with, or only on one side of it. The hills of it run nearly parallel with the general ranges, and the west line of the County. Beginning at the north part, it occurs in large hills in Clarksburg, Will-

iamstown, and Adams, connected with the limestone. *Oak Hill* and Stone Hill in Williamstown, are formed chiefly of this rock. It occurs also along the north base of Saddle mountain. In Cheshire, it is in considerable quantity; often disintegrated, forming immense quantities of sand, used in the manufacture of crown glass, when the Glass Company in Cheshire was in operation, and often transported to the glass factories in New York, especially that of Sandlake in the adjoining county of Rensselaer; employed also in the *sawing* of marble into *slabs*, in Lanesborough and New Ashford. This rock occurs again at the Gulf, between Lanesborough and Dalton. Also at the west base of Washington mountain, on the south-east of Pittsfield. A portion of this rock at this place is used for the hearths of the furnace in Lenox and other places, from its capacity for withstanding the action of great heat. Another part of it is very porous, and divided into small rough and irregular cavities, resembling those of *burr stone*, and like this, is wrought into *mill stones* to considerable extent in Pittsfield. The rock occurs in strata of a few inches to twenty or more in thickness, making it very convenient for either use. In Lee, Tyringham, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, New Marlborough, and Sheffield, are hills of quartz rock. The south part of Monument mountain is composed wholly of it. The northern part of this mountain is mica slate; the south part exhibiting the *White Cliffs*, which present so fine an appearance from the plain and hill in Stockbridge, one of the most beautiful prospects in this County, are of this rock. *Alum Hill*, in Sheffield, is this rock.

This rock appears to be considerably stratified; having an inclination towards the east. It is split also from west to east in many places; rendering it a very convenient stone to work into walls, jambs, hearths, doorsteps, and the like.

In a few places, a kind of *quartzose brebcia* is associated with this rock. In the east part of Pittsfield, and south-west of Hinsdale, the quartz is cemented by *fibrous brown Hemanlite.* In Sheffield and Great Barrington, the cement is *quartz* itself.

### 3. *Granular Limestone.*

There seem to be two strata or nearly continuous beds of limestone. The *eastern* passes through Adams, Cheshire, Windsor, Washington, Hinsdale, &c., to N. Marlborough. This is less in width, highly crystalline, large granular, relatively hard, difficult to *burn into lime*, but forming lime of the best quality; sometimes containing *mica* and calcareous spar; wrought for marble in Adams, New Marlborough, &c.

The *western* passes through Williamstown and New Ashford and the north-east part of Hancock, and thence southward through all the towns in the Housatonic valley. This stratum or bed is wider than the other, and is a part of the great stratum extending from Long Island Sound through Connecticut and this County, far into Vermont, perhaps into Canada. The great quantities of marble, scattered over the County, are from this bed. It is now quarried abundantly in West Stockbridge, Lanesborough, and New Ashford, and wrought in most of the towns. It is distinctly crystalline, more finely granular than the other, takes a fine polish, occurs in strata very convenient for working, and has a great variety of colour. The *white* is the most valuable; the *brown*, gray, *dove-coloured*, *ash-coloured*, *striped*, *dark*, and *variegated*, are very beautiful. It is impossible to ascertain with correctness the value of the marble annually wrought. A few years since it was estimated, after much inquiry of the owners and workmen, at $40,000 annually.

Limestone, which will not take a polish, and cannot of course be wrought as marble, every where occurs with the marble, and often makes it very expensive in getting at the marble.

The *burning of lime* is a common business. Considerable quantities of lime are annually produced in most of the towns. From Adams, Lanesborough, Pittsfield, &c., much is transported to other towns. The limestone is so abundant, and of so fine a quality, that poor lime is scarcely known. The common price at the kiln is twenty-five cents the bushel, varying from 100 to 112 lbs.

The City Hall in New York is built of marble, obtained chiefly from West Stockbridge. Marble is also

transported from this County to Boston, and in considerabl quantities to the westward along the Grand Canal.

*Elastic marble* has been found in West Stockbridge, Lanesborough, and New Ashford. It often occurs in blocks, of which it forms only a small part. It is more elastic when *thoroughly wet*, although it exhibits the property when it has not been wet for years. It is a rather coarse marble, commonly white, or with a reddish tinge.

Connected with the western range of limestone, are immense quantities of *magnesian carbonate of lime;* often highly granular, and frequently *fetid;* frequently white or grayish, and friable (Dolomite); commonly solid, but rather coarse grained, (common magnesian limestone.) The beautiful white Dolomite of Lee, Muddy Brook in Great Barrington, Sheffield and New Marlborough, contains fibrous and bladed crystals of *Tremolite*, and, in Muddy Brook and New Marlborough, white crystals of *Ancite.*

The granular limestone is frequently fetid in Lee, Stockbridge, and Alford.

Caverns. Few caverns are found among the primitive rocks. One, more than 100 feet in length, is found in the limestone in Lanesborough, irregular and narrow; probably worn by water. Two caverns are also found in the limestone in the south part of New Marlborough. These caverns contain rude *stalactites.* Another small cavern is in West Stockbridge; in which was found a small quantity of *Agaric Mineral*, (*Pulvurulent carbonate of lime.*)

In Sheffield, the limestone alternates several times with mica slate. The same is seen in Williamstown and other places. The bed of limestone on which Williams College stands, extends for several miles, contains much quartz finely diffused through it, is hard, often gives fire with steel, is frequently divided by seams into rhomboidal masses a foot or two feet or more on a side; often also very much disturbed in its form, and tortuous; sometimes bent in the arc of a curve, a foot or more in diameter.

4. *Primitive Argillaceous Slate.*

The principal part of this rock is along the eastern part of the Taconic range, forming a considerable portion of the hills in some places. It alternates in some places with mica slate, or with talco-micaceous slate. It has a shining appearance; sometimes tortuous; strata easily separable. It is entirely different in its appearance from the argillite in the adjoining parts of New York, beyond the Taconic range. In this County it is always black or dark gray; sometimes a little *talcose.* Though it is found in the south part of the County, it is more abundant in Hancock, New Ashford and Williamstown. It is gradually, but slowly, disintegrating, forming excellent soil.

*Accidental rock, Graywacke.*

The only rock, out of place, found in this County, is *Graywacke.* It occurs in rounded masses, of a small size to rocks many tons in weight, and is found in all the towns through the middle and western parts of the County. It has a dark green aspect, and is composed of an argillaceous base, containing fragments of quartz, feldspar, argillite, and the like. There can be no doubt that it has by some means been transported over the Taconic range from the adjoining county in the State of New York.

*Puddingstone.*

Small quantities of puddingstone, or a kind of sandstone, are found in Williamstown. It is evidently connected with the larger bed in Pownal, Vt., and is composed of grains of quartz, siliceous slate, limestone, chlorite, &c., aggregated by an argillaceous cement.

*Alluvial.*

The alluvial formation along the Housatonic and Hoosic rivers, has already been alluded to. It is generally of moderate breadth, sometimes a mile, commonly less than half a mile; rich, clayey, excellent for grass, and in the drier parts, for Indian corn, oats, &c.

*Ores.*

The only ores that are wrought in this County, are those of iron. Large beds of iron ore are found imbedded in clay in Lenox, Richmond, and West Stockbridge. Iron ore is also found in most of the towns

through the middle of the County. These beds are near limestone, and covered generally only with the common soil. These beds are a part of the great line of iron ore from the south through Salisbury, Conn., and this County, northwards into Vermont. The kind of ore in the beds of Berkshire, is the *brown Hemalite, fibrous*, rarely *cylindrical, compost, ochry*-brown. This kind of ore is rich, and abundant.

Bog-iron-ore on low grounds in many towns. Sulphuret of iron is common; *magnetic oxyd of iron* in mica slate, not rare. Copperas, (sulphate of iron) in Sheffield, Tyringham, near the Shaker village, and at S. Adams; effloresces in mica slate.

*Black oxyd of manganese* has been found in Adams, on the east side of Saddle mountain.

Sulphuret of lead, (Galena) in the same place; also, in limestone in Williamstown, in small quantity.

*Minerals.*

Besides the minerals already noticed, a few others may be mentioned.

*Alum*, effloresing in aluminous slate in Sheffield.

*Quartz, limpid*, at Lenox and Williamstown.
*smoky*, beautiful on Monument mountain.
*greasy*, common.
*rose red*, Williamstown, rare.
*granular*, abundant.
*ferruginous*, yellow and red, in Pittsfield and Lanesborough.

*Hornstone* and *siliceous slate* and jasper, in small roll-pieces.

*Cyanite*, and *Staurotide*, and *Schorl*, common in mica slate, but not abundant.

*Feldspar*, in Lanesborough.

*Garnet*, abundant in mica slate, Sheffield, and various towns; small, reddish and dark brown.

*Chlorite* and *chlorite slate*, common in the County.

*Gibbsite*, in an iron mine in Richmond; in small quantity also in Lenox; these are the only known localities: *incrustatious, stalactical*, mammillary, *crystalline* and *fibrous*, and massive, composed of *clay* and *water*.

*Potters' clay*, common, in beds.

*Graphite*, (black lead) in Hinsdale, with Augite, foliated and massive.

*Sulphur*, in small quantities in mica slate.

*Red oxyd of Titanium*, Pittsfield, in Dolomite with quartz.

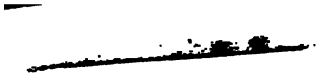
*Potters' clay*, or, as the people commonly call it, *clay*, suitable for the fabrication of common *pottery* and brick, is abundant in most of the streams and low grounds. Potteries have been in successful operation in Lee and Williamstown, for many years. Of *brick* great quantities are annually made, and the business is greatly increasing, as the construction of *brick* buildings is much more common than formerly.

*Mineral Springs.*

The only one of any consequence in the County, is the *Williamstown Mineral Spring*. It greatly resembles that at Lebanon, N. Y. Its water is warm, contains very little saline matter, is very soft to the skin, and has a favorable influence in several cutaneous diseases.

There are also in Hinsdale, New Marlborough, Adams, &c., springs which give off some *hepatic gas*, and are used occasionally for the cure of eruptions.

END OF PART FIRST.



A

# HISTORY

OF

# THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

## PART II.

CONTAINING AN

## ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL TOWNS.

---

BY GENTLEMEN IN THE COUNTY,

CLERGYMEN AND LAYMEN.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF SHEFFIELD.

BY REV. JAMES BRADFORD.

---

As early as the year 1722, Joseph Parsons and 176 others, within the county of Hampshire, petitioned the General Assembly of the Province of Massachusetts for two townships of land in said county, upon the river *Housatunnuk*, or West brook. In answer to this petition, the General Assembly granted two townships on the Housatunnuk river, of the contents of seven miles square, adjoining south the divisional line between Massachusetts and Connecticut. For the purposes of making a purchase of the Indians, dividing the tract, granting lots, admitting settlers, &c. &c., John Stoddard, Henry Dwight, Luke Hitchkok, John Ashley, and Samuel Porter, Esqs., were appointed a committee, to which Capt. Ebenezer Pomroy [Pomeroy] was afterwards added, with directions to reserve lands for the first settled minister, for the future support of the gospel, and for schools. Of each proprietor they were to demand thirty shillings for every hundred acres of land; and this money they were to expend in purchasing the right of the Indians, laying out the lands, and in building meeting-houses in said township.

This grant was made Jan. 30, 1722; and the committee met in Springfield, March 19, 1723, and received, on the conditions prescribed, the names of *fifty-five* settlers or proprietors.

On the 25th of April, 1724, the committee received from the Indians, "in consideration of £460, three barrels of cider, and thirty quarts of rum," a deed of a tract

of land on the river Housatunnuk, bounded as follows, viz: South by the divisional line between the then province of Massachusetts Bay and the colony of Connecticut, west on the colony of New York, north on *the great mountain*, then known by the name of *Mau-ska-fee-haunk*, and east to extend four miles from the river, and in a general way, so to extend. The Indians, however, reserved to themselves, within this tract, all the land between a brook on the west side of Housatunnuk river, by the name of *Mau-nau-pen-fe-con*, and a small brook lying between the aforesaid brook and the river called *Waum-pa-nik-see-poot*, or White river, running a due west line from the mouth of said brooks to the colony of New York; together with a clear meadow between the beforementioned small brook and White river. This deed was signed and sealed by *Kon-ke-pot** and twenty other Indians at Westfield, before John Ashley, justice of the peace.

Although it is difficult to determine what mountain is intended, called in the deed *the great mountain*, as the northern boundary of the tract of land thus secured from the Indians, yet from the surveys which were afterwards made, it is clear that the townships extended as far north as the southern slope of Rattlesnake mountain, and as the mountain west of this, called Stockbridge mountain. Though it is probable the dividing line between Massachusetts and New York was then supposed to be farther east than it was finally found to be, yet the terms of the deed included the present townships of Sheffield, Egremont, Mount Washington, Great Barrington, and Alford, a considerable portion of Lee, and the greater part of Stockbridge and West Stockbridge.

The lands reserved by the Indians lie on the south of Green river, called in the deed, White river, and near the divisional line between Sheffield and Great Barrington; and some of the apple-trees still standing there are thought to be the remains of orchards planted by them. On this tract, called by the Indians, *Ska-tee-*

* This Indian, with his wife and family, was a few years after this, baptized by Mr. Sergeant, a missionary to the Indians at Stockbridge.

*hook*, not more than four or five families resided; nor did even these remain there but about twelve years after this; for in 1735 or 6, they left their lands here and received others in *Upper Housatunnuk*, within the present bounds of Stockbridge, that they might be collected with other natives, under the instruction of Rev. John Sergeant, who had recently commenced labours as a Christian missionary among them.

There was also a small Indian settlement, not improbably earlier than this one on Konkapot brook.

There are very few traces of the Indians now to be discovered in Sheffield. On a gravelly hillock in the north part of the town, within the tract they reserved, on the west side of the road, and south of the lane that turns to Mr. Amos Root's, it is supposed was a burying place of theirs. Human bones were discovered a few years since in making the turnpike road through the town, two miles and a half or three miles south of the meeting-house, on the rise of ground a few rods south of the turnpike gate, which led to the supposition that this spot too was an Indian burying place.

In 1725, two of the committee, Capt. John Ashley and Capt. Ebenezer Pomroy, made a general division of the lower township, especially of that part of it lying upon the river; and soon after the place began to be settled by individuals from the county of Hampshire, and mostly from the town of Westfield. At this time, and probably for some years after, the entire region east, to Westfield, was unsettled and a forest; and northward, even to Canada, the whole extent of country was one vast and terrible wilderness.

In 1726, the settlers were subjected to much inconvenience and vexation by some of the Dutch inhabitants of the colony of New York, who contested their titles to their lands; and by order of the Governor of Massachusetts, they were forbidden to make any further settlement, or commence any process against those who molested them. The settlement was consequently for a time much impeded. Eventually, however, these difficulties subsided, and the government not only authorized, but encouraged and aided the proprietors to proceed.

The early settlers were subjected to other privations through fear of the Indians, and were necessitated to picket in two or three dwellings in different parts of the town, and to resort there for safety at night. One house upon the plain, then Elisha Noble's, now that in which Moses Hubbard, Esq. lives, was thus picketed.

On the 22d of June, 1733, John Ashley, and Ebenezer Pomroy, Esqs., and Mr. Thomas Ingersoll, were appointed a committee by the General Assembly, (the time allotted to the old committee having expired,) not only to confirm and advance the settlement of the *lower township*, but also to take measures to promote a settlement in the *upper*.

Among the first settlers were those of the name of Noble, Austin, Ashley, Westover, Kellogg, Pell, Callender, Corben, Huggins, Smith, Ingersoll, Dewey, Root, &c. &c., in all about sixty, who had their lands, from 250 to 1000 acres each, confirmed to them by the committee, by their personal attendance at Housatunnuk about 1733. Mr. Obadiah Noble was the first white man that came to reside in Sheffield. He was from Westfield, and came and spent the first winter here with no other human associates than the Indians. In the spring he went back to Westfield; and in June, his daughter, afterwards the wife of Deacon Daniel Kellogg, returned here with him. She was the first white woman that came into the town. She travelled from Westfield, when about sixteen years of age, on horseback, bringing a bed with her, and lodged one night in the wilderness, in what is now the east part of Tyringham. This Mr. Noble commenced labour and lived upon the plain, near where Samuel Shears, Esq. now lives; and this for a long time was considered the centre of the lower township.

In 1733, the lower township of Housatunnuk was set off and incorporated as a town, eight miles long, north and south on the river, and wide enough to include seven miles square, according to the grant in 1722, and was called by the General Assembly by the name of *Sheffield*, probably from Sheffield in England. It extended north to Great Barrington bridge. Though the length was liberal for eight miles, it would seem the *township* could not then have been considered as ex-

tending as far west as the present line of New York. It was 27 years after this, viz. 1761, before Sheffield was reduced to its present dimensions. A portion of it was then annexed to the upper township, and with it incorporated by the name of Great Barrington.

By the direction of government, the first town meeting was holden at Sheffield, at the house of Obadiah Noble, on the 16th of January, 1733; and at this meeting, Matthew Noble was chosen moderator, Hezekiah Noble, town clerk, and John Smith, Philip Callender, and Daniel Kellogg, selectmen.

Sheffield is now bounded by the Connecticut line on the south, by Mount Washington and Egremont on the west, by Great Barrington on the north, and by New Marlborough on the east. Its length, south and north, is about 8 miles, and its mean breadth about 7. According to the census of 1820, Sheffield contained 2439 inhabitants, 150 of whom were blacks.

Sheffield includes an extensive vale, and, except on the *east part*, is generally level. *There*, there is a chain of considerable hills, extending from one end of the town to the other. On the west it is mountainous. *Taconic*, or Mount Washington, as this part of the Taconic range is more generally called, is a mountain of very considerable height, more elevated than any other land in the region. A part of this mountain only, however, is within the bounds of Sheffield.

The soil of the town is generally productive, and, in the vale, very easily tilled. Formerly great crops of wheat were raised; and occasionally even now they are considerable; but so uncertain are they, or to procure them so much labour is required, that little wheat, comparatively, is sown. The best of rye, and that in great abundance, is raised here, and corn, potatoes, flax, &c. &c. &c. Few towns afford so much hay, and with so little labour as Sheffield. This is obtained chiefly from the very extensive intervals lying upon the river.

The principal stream of water in the town is the *Housatonic* river, here a silent, sluggish stream, from six to eight rods in breadth. It runs from north to south through the whole extent of the town into Connecticut, and empties itself into the sea, on Long Island Sound,

between Milford and Stratford. Over this stream, within the town of Sheffield, are six bridges, which are supported at considerable expense, being often injured and sometimes carried away by the rise of water, which frequently inundates the whole vast tract of low land through which it passes. There are other smaller streams, emptying both from the east and the west into the Housatonic, and on these streams are located all the mills, carding machines, &c.

Grist and saw-mills were early erected in Sheffield. At present, there are two of the former, one of which contains four sets of stones, and five of the latter, and one plaster mill. There are also two carding machines, two clothiers' works, three considerable tanneries, one manufactory of hats, two cabinet-makers' shops, a number of wagon-makers and blacksmiths, and, very much to be regretted, one extensive distillery. Formerly there were in this town three forges for the making of iron, one in the south part of the town, near where Maj. Ashley's mills now are, the others were on a small stream on the east side of the river; but all of them have been discontinued since about the year 1805 or 6.

This town affords great abundance of white marble, and much of very excellent quality. Two or three quarries of it are opened; one about three miles south of the meeting-house, the others north, near the turnpike road to Albany and Hudson. That in this section of the town, called Kellogg's quarry, was opened in 1804, and has employed for several years past, in all the business connected with it, from 10 to 15 hands.

*Lime* has been made here from the time of the first settlement; at present there are not more than three or four kilns where it is made, though there are materials enough to employ as many hundreds, and perhaps thousands.

There are in the town seven stores of English and India goods, &c.; and it contains about 300 dwelling-houses. There are two small villages in the centre of the town, to the north and south of Kisnop brook. There is also a cluster of buildings in the south part of the town at Ashley's mills.

The burying grounds are five; one about half a mile north of the centre, which was improved probably as

early as 1735 or 6; one south of the centre about the same distance, occupied at least as soon as 1740; one in the north-west part of the town; one on the east side of the river, south-west about three miles from the centre, and one in the north-east part, near New Marlborough line. Besides these there are as many as four or five other places where a few persons have been interred.

A post office was established in the town in the year 1794, and Elisha Lee, Esq. was appointed postmaster. Dr. William Buel, Dr. Nathaniel Prester, and Edward F. Ensign, Esq., have in succession been in this office. A mail stage passes back and forth through the town on the road from Hartford to Albany every day (Sabbath excepted,) for about half the year; during the other half, every other day. There are other weekly mails received and sent out from this office. Few towns in the County have more travel. It is so located that much of the travel from Albany and Hudson, as well as from the upper part of the County and Vermont to Hartford, New Haven, Boston, and New York, &c. &c., must of course pass through it to the south; so also from these places to the north. The most natural route from north to south, and from south to north, is through the centre of Sheffield, and it is very much improved.

Considerable attention was early given by the inhabitants of this town to *education*, and persons were annually employed to instruct common schools. In 1750, a grammar school was commenced, and continued at the expense of the town for a number of years. At present there are in Sheffield thirteen school districts, containing 769 children and youth. In each of these districts is a school house, where a school is kept for a considerable part both of summer and winter. For the support of district schools, however, the sum annually raised by the town is but about $750. The school lands, originally owned by the town, were voted to be sold, as early as 1739, and eventually were sold, and the monies arising from them were put into the town treasury, and expended; so that now there remains no fund for the support of schools. At different times, within thirty years, occasional select schools, both male

and female, have existed here. At present there is one, in which attention is given to all the branches of education usually taught in the academies of our country: to this both males and females are admitted.

There are here three or four public libraries. One, established some years since, consisted of about 180 volumes. This is now but little improved. The two or three others are smaller, and were formed about 1822 or 3.

In the very infancy of their settlement, the inhabitants of Sheffield were mindful of the vast importance of religious institutions and privileges. Animated in a measure, it would seem, by the spirit of the Pilgrims, at one of their first town meetings, in Jan. 1733, they voted to erect a meeting-house, 45 feet by 35, and to employ a person to preach the gospel. A preacher was immediately and constantly employed, and in the summer of 1735 their house was put up, situated on the *Plain*, (so called,) about a mile north of the present house of worship.

In June 26, 1735, Mr. Jonathan Hubbard received a call to settle with them in the work of the gospel ministry; and on the 22d of October following, a church was organized, and Mr. Hubbard was ordained as the first minister of Sheffield, by an ecclesiastical council of ministers and delegates from the then neighboring churches, viz: from Litchfield, Con., from Springfield, Enfield, Northampton, and Sunderland. Mr. Hubbard was a native of Sunderland, Mass., and was graduated at Yale College in 1724. He continued the pastor of the church in Sheffield about twenty-nine years. He was dismissed in 1764, and died the 6th of July, 1765, in the 62d year of his age. Mr. Hubbard is said to have been possessed of mental faculties that were sound, lively, and active. In his faith he was orthodox; and in his public discourses plain, judicious, and instructive.

Previous to the death of Mr. Hubbard, for the better accommodation of the people, a new meeting-house was erected, viz. in 1762, near the spot on which the house of worship now stands. This was moved back and extensively repaired in 1819; a steeple and a bell were added to it.

After Mr. Hubbard's death, the church and society were destitute of a settled minister about seven years, during which time, however, candidates were almost constantly employed. A call was given to Mr. John Keep, the second minister, on the 4th of March, 1772, and he was ordained on the 10th of June following. Mr. Keep was a native of Longmeadow, Mass. He was graduated at Yale College in 1769, and died Sept. 3d, 1785, in the 36th year of his age, and the 13th of his ministry. Mr. Keep possessed a good natural genius, which was improved by education, and sanctified by grace. He was eminent as a divine, a preacher, a friend, and a christian. The late Dr. West, of Stockbridge, declared him to be the best pulpit speaker he ever heard. When Dr. Wales was elected Professor of Divinity at Yale College, in 1782, the candidates were Rev. Samuel Wales, Nathan Strong, and John Keep.

After Mr. Keep's death, the people were careful to have the desk supplied constantly with some candidate for settlement; but six years passed away before the church had another pastor.

The Rev. Ephraim Judson received a call in March, 1789, and was installed in May following. He was born in Woodbury, Con., and received his first degree at Yale College, in 1763. He first settled at Norwich, Con., and afterwards at Taunton, Mass. He died Feb. 23d, 1813, in the 77th year of his age, and the 23d of his ministry. The inscription on his tomb-stone declares that he "was esteemed as a learned divine, an acute logician, and an evangelical preacher. He was mild, courteous and hospitable. By his numerous friends he was deemed a wise counsellor, an active peace-maker, and a sincere christian."

The Rev. James Bradford, the present pastor of the church, was born in Rowley, Mass., was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1811, and ordained Oct. 13th, 1813.

How many individuals constituted the church in Sheffield, when first organized, and what was the number of additions made to it from time to time down to the commencement of Mr. Judson's ministry, there are no records to determine. During his ministry, according to his minutes, there were added 60. During Mr.

Bradford's ministry, there have been added 329. The whole number of members, January, 1829, was 279.

*Deacons.*

Daniel Kellogg; elected about 1735.
Philip Callender; elected do. 1735; died about 1753.
Silas Kellogg.
Ebenezer Smith; died July 7, 1795; aged 86.
Aaron Foot; elected Jan. 1792; died Feb. 28, 1822; aged 83.
Jonathan Hubbard; elected Jan. 1792; died Jan. 1, 1825; aged 80.
Stephen Callender; elected Oct. 19, 1810.
Thomas Kellogg; do.
Jesse Shepherd; elected 1824.
John De Lamatter; do.
Zechariah B. Peet; elected Feb. 21, 1828.
Ephraim Kellogg; do.

Concerning special revivals of religion, previous to Mr. Judson's ministry, there are no records; nor is there any traditionary account that they were enjoyed here. Under his ministry, in 1800, there was an unusual interest on the subject of religion, and the church received an addition of 15, as the fruits. As the fruits of a revival, there were received to the church in 1814, 17; in 1815, 15; in 1816, 60; in 1822 and 3, 137; in 1827, 32.

The Congregational society in Sheffield has a fund, consisting of money arising from the sale of ministry lands, which affords towards the support of the gospel, $200 annually.

Upon the petition of a few individuals in the south-west part of the town, a Baptist society was incorporated in Jan. 26, 1821. A church was formed, July 7, 1825, with fifteen members; since which four persons have been added to it. The number was reported in 1828 to be 19.

There are a few Methodists, and some Episcopalians.

Efforts to instruct the rising generation in Sabbath schools and a Bible class, have been made here with some success. and the cause of Bible Societies, foreign and domestic missions, and the colonization of the

free blacks, have been the objects of Christian benevolence.

The following gentlemen have been physicians in this town:

William Bull; a native of Westfield; an eminent physician, settled here before 1755.

Nathaniel Downing.

Lemuel Barnard; a native of Deerfield; a graduate of Yale College, 1759.

Asa Hillyer; a native of Granby, Con.

Sylvester Barnard; a native of Northampton; died 1817, aged 59.

William Buel; a native of Litchfield. Returned to Litchfield.

Asahel Bennet; a native of Sheffield.

John E. Le Faugeu; a native of France.

Nathaniel Prester; died 1825.

John De Lamatter; a native of Florida, N. Y. Prof. Med. Inst. Fairfield, N. Y.

Caleb Loring.

Oliver Peck; a native of Lyme, Con.

Silas K. Kellogg; a native of Sheffield.

Ithamar H. Smith; do. do.

*Lawyers.*

John Huggins.

John Ashley; a native of Westfield; educated at Yale College, 1730; admitted to the bar, 1732; died Sept. 1, 1803, aged 93.

Zadock Huggins; a native of Springfield.

Theodore Sedgwick; a native of West Hartford; educated at Yale College, 1765; admitted to the bar, 1776. Removed to Stockbridge.

Elisha Lee; a native of Salisbury, Con.; educated at Yale College, 1777; admitted to the bar, 1784.

Harry Barnard; a native of Sheffield; admitted to the bar, 1798. Removed to Franklin county.

John W. Hurlburt; a native of Alford.

William H. Raymond; a native of Sheffield.

Enoch W. Thayer; a native of Ware.

Robert F. Barnard; a native of Sheffield; admitted to the bar, 1805.

Charles Dewey; a native of Sheffield; admitted to the bar in 1805. Living in Indiana.

Charles Bushnel; a native of Sheffield; admitted to the bar in 1808. Living in Natchez, Miss.

Robert L. Patten; a native of Great Barrington.

Benjamin Sheldon; a native of New Marlborough educated at Williams College, 1806; admitted to the bar, 1809. Returned to New Marlborough.

Cyrus Byington; a native of Stockbridge; admitted to the bar, 1814. Missionary among the Choctaws.

Richard O. Hurlburt; a native of Alford; admitted to the bar, 1815. Removed to Erie, Penn.

Josiah Quincy; a native of Lenox; admitted to the bar. 1815. Removed to Romley, N. H.

Edward F. Ensign; a native of Sheffield; educated at Yale College, 1815; admitted to the bar, 1820.

Parker L. Hall; a native of Pownal, Vt.; educated at Williams College, 1818; admitted to the bar, 1822.

Among the distinguished individuals of this town, John Huggins, Esq., Hon. John Ashley, and Gen. John Ashley, his son, and Gen. John Fellows, may with propriety be mentioned.

At the time the settlement began here, John Huggins was in extensive practice as a lawyer, in the town of Springfield. At what time he removed to this place, is not ascertained. He continued in practice there, though it is probable his practice was diminished by his removal. He had as correct information as any lawyer of that day. His declarations were distinguished for formality.

The Hon. John Ashley settled here when a young man, probably about 1732, and being favoured with superior abilities, natural and acquired, was extensively employed in advancing the good order of the town. The proprietors were so well satisfied with his services, that they gave him 200 acres of land, "as an acknowledgment of his kindness in promoting the good of the settlement." How far he was engaged in the practice of law does not appear. He often represented the town in the Legislature. Before this County was formed, he was a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Hampshire. Upon that event, he was appointed a *special* justice in Berkshire, and in 1765, a

judge of the Court of Common Pleas; in which capacity he remained until 1781. He "rose through many grades of military offices to the command of a regiment. The State, then a British colony, repeatedly committed to him important business. He lived to an advanced age, enjoying health and mental abilities far beyond what is usual by men of his years." He was the owner of not less than 15 or 1600 acres of land in the township.

Gen. John Ashley was graduated at Yale College in 1758, and afterwards settled here upon his father's plantation. He was frequently a representative to the General Court. "He rose through the several military grades to the rank of Major General of the 9th Division of the militia of Massachusetts." In the time of the Shays rebellion, he was a Colonel, and commanded the force which opposed and dispersed the insurgents at the skirmish in this town, on the 26th of February, 1787. "He was ever a firm friend to the Constitution and liberties of the United States, and as a magistrate he was upright. He died Nov. 5. 1799, in the 64th year of his age." See Appendix to the Rev. Mr. Judson's Funeral Sermon.

Gen. John Fellows was born at Pomfret, Con. He served the town usefully in various capacities; was a member of the Provincial Congress which sat at Cambridge in February, 1775. He was first a Colonel, and then a Brigadier General in the militia of Massachusetts, in the Revolutionary war. For several years he was high sheriff of the County. He died Aug. 1, 1808, in his 74th year.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF EGREMONT.

BY REV. GARDNER HEYDEN.

---

This town is about 5¼ miles long, from north to south, and about 4¼ broad, from east to west, comprising 1584 acres.

It is bounded by Alford on the north, by Great Barrington and Sheffield on the east, by Sheffield and Mt. Washington on the south, and by the State of New York on the west.

The western and southern parts of the town extend on to the Taconic range of mountains. Portions of the eastern section are level; the other parts are undulating.

The soil is various; but generally productive. Most of it is better adapted to tillage than to grazing.

There are no large streams in the town, but several of sufficient size for supplying mills.

Green river, which takes its rise in the State of New York, passes through the north-east corner of the town, receiving on its way a brook, which rises in a pond, west of the Baptist meeting-house. Hubbard's brook rises in a pond west of the Congregational meeting-house, and in several springs in Taconic mountain, passes eastward through the town, and connects itself with Kisnop brook in Sheffield.

The regular settlement of the town commenced about 1730; though it is said, that Andrew Karner and Robert Karner, from Rhinebeck, New York, and John Spoor, Isaac Spoor, and Jacob Spoor, from some part

of that State, settled in it at an earlier period. They probably acted upon the belief, that it belonged to the State, or as it was then, to the colony of New York. Between 1730 and 1756, many families moved into the place from New York, and from the New England States.

Among the early settlers, besides those already mentioned, were Nicholas Karner, Jacob Karner, Cornelius Spoor, Ebenezer Baldwin, Aaron Loomis, Josiah Phelps, John Perry, Timothy Hopkins, Elias Hopkins, Nehemiah Messenger, Benjamin Trumain, Samuel Colver, Samuel Younglove, William Webb, Jonathan Welch, Samuel Welch, Robert Joyner, Gideon Church, Ebenezer Smith, Aaron Sheldon, Israel Taylor, William Roberts, Joseph Hicks, Edward Baily, Abraham Andrews, and John Fuller.

The Indian reservation, in the lower Housatonic township, mentioned in the history of Sheffield, extended through this town. A considerable part of this was leased to Andrew Karner, Oct. 20, 1740, by the Chiefs of the Stockbridge Indians. In 1756, the inhabitants purchased the Indian right, at least to some of the land. Fifty-two acres of the leased land were subsequently sold to the Rev. Eliphalet Steele. Other portions of it passed into the hands of one individual and another, until all knowledge of the lease was gone. A few years since, William F. Gragg, of Augusta, New York, who had got possession of the lease, claimed the land, with the exception of that sold to Mr. Steele, and in 1826 the occupants paid him for his right, $400.

This place was incorporated as a district in 1760, and called by its present name. It was invested with all the privileges, powers, and immunities, which towns in the province enjoyed, except the right of sending a representative to the General Court; which right was to be held in common with the town of Sheffield. Some years after, the right of sending a representative was given to it.

In March following the incorporation, at a legal town meeting, Samuel Winchel was chosen town clerk, and Jonah Westover, Timothy Kellogg, and Isaac Spoor, selectmen.

The inhabitants are very generally farmers, and within a few years have made very considerable improvements in agriculture. Their buildings also have assumed a better appearance. A few are engaged in other employments. There is a small village in the east, and another in the north-east part of the town.

The turnpike road, from Hartford, Con., divides in this town, one branch going to the city of Hudson, and the other to the city of Albany. A turnpike from the north part of Great Barrington, near Stockbridge line, passes through the town, and unites with the Hudson road in Hillsdale, to the west of us, in New York.

There are in the town post offices, five public houses, five stores, two grist-mills, four saw-mills, and a gin distillery.

A quarry of white marble extends almost through the whole length of the township. In some places the stone is covered with several feet of earth, and in others rises above the surface. Several openings have been made, and the stone has been wrought to some extent. It possesses the same general properties as the white marble in West Stockbridge; but is not of so fine a texture.

In 1767, the inhabitants erected a house for the public worship of God, raised money for the support of the gospel, and appointed a committee to employ a candidate for the ministry. In the course of the same year, they invited the Rev. James Treadway to become their pastor. He, however, declined the invitation.

After this, they raised money annually at their March meeting for the support of preaching, and several candidates were employed.

Feb. 5, 1770, they gave a unanimous call to the Rev. Eliphalet Steele, a native of West Hartford, and a graduate of Yale College, 1764, to settle with them. On the 20th of the same month, the Congregational church was organized, and on the 28th of June following, Mr. Steele was placed over it in the Lord.

The people generally were united in their pastor, until the time of the Shays rebellion. As he was supposed to be favorable to the government, the malcontents became his enemies and opposers. On a certain occasion, several armed ruffians violently entered his house

in the night season; and after treating him in a very insolent and abusive manner, carried away his watch and several articles of clothing. The town soon became much divided with respect to religious sentiment, and sectarians of different names and tenets came in. Mr. Steele, however, remained in this charge until April 29, 1794, when he was dismissed by a council. Soon after this, he was re-settled at Paris, Oneida county, New York, where he remained until his death. He was acknowledged, even by his enemies, to be an exemplary man and a sound divine. He was the author of five discourses on Baptism.

After the dismission of Mr. Steele, the Congregational church having no regular preaching, no one to watch over them, and to break to them the bread of life, decreased by deaths and removals, until 1814, when it was considered to be extinct.

In 1816, the present Congregational church was formed of 14 members, 6 males and 8 females; and on the 23d of Nov. 1820, the Rev. Gardner Hayden was ordained their pastor, at which time the church consisted of 31 members. The late Rev. Aaron Kinne, of Alford, was particularly instrumental in gathering and building up this church.

Mr. Hayden is from Blanford, and took his first degree at Williams College in 1818. Under his ministry 51 have been admitted to the church; and on the first day of January last, the members were 61 in number, 13 males and 48 females.

The two great revivals in the County, since 1820, reached this congregation, but did not spread much among the people.

A Baptist church was formed in the north part of this town in 1787. The Baptist society obtained their act of incorporation in 1808, and in 1817 erected their house of worship.

Elder Jeduthan Gray, who had been previously an inhabitant of the town, preached to this people about twenty years, and then removed to some other part of the country.

Elder Elisha D. Hubbell, from West Stockbridge, supplied them for a time. He removed to the State of New York.

For several years past they have been under the instruction of Elder Enos Marshall, but are now without a pastor.

The number of communicants at the last meeting of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention, was reported to be 138. Some of these live in the neighboring towns.

Some years since, a small Methodist society was formed in the south-west part of the town, who worship in a school house, and have circuit preaching once in two weeks. The number of members in their classes is 50.

There are 4 district schools in the town. A building has been erected in the eastern part of the town this season, in which it is designed to have a school kept of a higher order.

The social library of Egremont was formed in 1822, having about 180 volumes.

Formerly the people resorted to other places for medical aid.

Henry D. Chapman, M. D., from Hancock, settled here a few years since as a physician.

*Lawyers.*

Lonson Nash; a native of Great Barrington; a graduate of Willisms College in 1801; admitted to the bar in 1805.

Charles Leavenworth; a native of Canaan, N. Y.; a graduate of Yale College in 1815; admitted to the bar in 1819; died Jan. 24, 1829. aged 33.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF MOUNT WASHINGTON.

BY REV. GARDNER HAYDEN.

---

This town is bounded north by Egremont, east by Sheffield, south by Salisbury in Connecticut, and Boston Corner, and west by the State of New York.

Its form is irregular. The average length from north to south, is about six miles, and its average breadth about 3½.

It was formerly called Taconic, or Taconic mountain. The surface is uneven. The habitable part in the centre is from 1500 to 2000 feet above the neighboring towns; while a ridge around this centre rises still higher, from 600 feet to 1000.

This ridge consists mostly of broken ledges of rocks, and but few trees of any considerable size grow upon it. There is only soil enough intermingled with the rocks to support shrubs from one to three or four feet in height. The whortleberry bush abounds, and the inhabitants in the vicinity flock to it in the months of August and September to gather the fruit.

The centre is interspersed with smaller hills and vallies, and watered with many brooks and streams which spring from the ridge. Some of these afford sufficient water for mills.

As early as 1753 or 4, a few families moved into the town. George Robinson, Joseph Graves, Thomas Wolcott, and John Dibble, were some of the first settlers. In 1757 the Indian right to the land, whatever it may

have been, after the sale of the two Housatonic townships, was purchased for £15.

Soon after this, John Dibble, one of the settlers abovenamed, John King, Nathan Benjamine, Peter Woodin, Benjamin Osborn, Charles Patterson, and others, petitioned the Legislature to grant them a township here; and in 1759 and 60, the township was actually surveyed under the direction of the Legislature into fifty lots, though the grant prayed for was not made until 1774.

In 1766 there were abont twenty families in the town, and a grist-mill and saw-mill were erected. The population afterwards slowly increased, and in 1779 the town was incorporated.

The inhabitants are almost universally farmers. Some of the land in the central part of the town is arable, and produces rye, oats, Indian corn, &c. It is not, however, so fertile as the land in the neighboring towns; and is best adapted to pasturage. A large portion of the timber is chesnut, which has become valuable for fencing and charcoal.

There is no store, nor public house in the town, and no grist-mill, those formerly built having gone to decay. There are four saw-mills.

No church of the Congregational or Presbyterian order was ever in the place. A few of the inhabitants belong to the Congregational church in Egremont. Some years since, a number joined with the Baptist church in North-East, in the State of New York. But they have either died or been removed, and no regular members now remain.

There is a Methodist society which has circuit preaching once a fortnight, though not on the sabbath. The number of members belonging to the Methodist class is 25.

The people several years since erected a town house, which answers for a place of worship.

In the grant of the township in 1774, a lot of land was given by the Legislature, with the design that it should be appropriated for the support of preaching. The lot has rented for some time for from 50 to 60 dollars a year. For several years the money was applied to the support of common schools. More recently it

has been divided among the four denominations residing here, Congregationalists. Baptists, Methodists, and Universalists, and expended for preaching of various kinds.

There are in this place 3 school districts.

*Boston Corner.*

Along the south-west line of Mount Washington, 2 miles and 192 rods in length, lies the unincorporated tract called Boston Corner. It is of a triangular form. The west line is said to be longer than the line just mentioned. The other is not quite as long. This is over the Taconic range, and except at the north-west point, where ledges occur, the land is good. This tract was settled about as early as Mount Washington, and the first settler was Daniel Porter. There are twelve or fourteen families, who constitute one school district. A road of considerable travel from Salisbury to Hudson, passes through it. Here is a post office, a store, tavern, clothier's works, carding machine, and saw-mill.

Since the cession of the Oblong by Connecticut to New York, Boston Corner is bounded on the south as well as west, by the latter State.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON.

BY REV. SYLVESTER BURT.

---

THE southern section of this town, below the "Great Bridge," belonged originally to the *lower* Housatonic township, and then to Sheffield, after that town was incorporated. The section above the Bridge belonged to the *upper* Housatonic township.

According to the act of the Legislature, these townships were each to be of the contents of seven miles square. According to the deed obtained from the Indians, they were to extend west from the Housatonic river to the line of New York, though that line was not then perfectly settled, and east of the river, *in a general way*, four miles. Agreeably to this *act* and *deed*, the upper Housatonic township was surveyed by Timothy Dwight, Esq., of Northampton, in October, 1736; so far as the township had not been taken up by a previous survey of the "Indian Town," as it was then called, now Stockbridge. From this survey it appears, that the boundary of the whole township was as follows: Beginning at the N. W. corner of Sheffield, the line ran east, 9° south, 1902 rods, then north, 40° east, over the Beartown Mts., 2256 rods to a point which falls on the farm of David and John Baker in Cape Street, (so called,) in the present town of Lee. It then ran west, 9° north, crossing the southern slope of Rattlesnake Mt. and Stockbridge Mt., 3150 rods, to the supposed line of New York; *then south,* 11° west, 1950 rods, to the point first men-

tioned; containing 31,360 acres, the area of seven miles square. The part taken up by the Indian Town was on the north of the township, 770 rods in breadth, extending from the supposed line of New York, six miles, or 1920 rods east. This contained 9240 acres, so that what belonged to the upper Housatonic township in 1736, was 22,120 acres.

From this township a portion on the western side was taken in 1773, united with some other tracts, and formed into a new township by the name of Alford; and the portion east of Stockbridge, in 1777, was taken, and united with a portion of Washington, and some smaller tracts, and formed into another town by the name of Lee. The remainder of the upper Housatonic township, omitting small trifling alterations, together with the section south of the Great Bridge, now constitute the township of Great Barrington.

The tract was formed into a parish about 1740, and was called the second parish of Sheffield. In 1761 it was selected as the seat of justice for the County of Berkshire, and in the course of that year it was incorporated as a town by its present name. County buildings were afterwards erected in the town, and courts were held here until 1787, when they were removed to Lenox.

The town is about seven miles in length, and six in breadth, containing 42 square miles, or about 26,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, and Lee, east by Tyringham and New Marlborough, south by Sheffield, and west by Egremont and Alford.

It is well watered by the Housatonic and its tributaries. The Housatonic runs through the town from north to south, leaving the larger division of it on the left. Williams' river from West Stockbridge unites with this in the north-west part of the town. Green river, which rises in the State of New York, and passes through parts of Alford and Egremont, unites with it in the south. Seaconk brook, a considerable branch of Green river, flows down from Alford, receiving after its entrance into this town the outlet of Long Pond, a pond of considerable size, near the north-west corner of the town. Besides these streams, a brook rises in the east part of the town, on the borders of Tyringham, called

Muddy brook, which runs northward into Stockbridge, where it assumes the name of Konkapot brook, and discharges itself into the Housatonic. On these rivers and brooks are many mill-sites, a considerable number of which are already occupied.

On the Housatonic are very valuable and considerably extensive intervals. There are also important intervals on Green river and Muddy brook. Excepting the North and West Plains, (as they are called,) the surface of the town is generally uneven; some parts are mountainous, and unfit for cultivation. About 18,000 acres are under improvement, and the soil in general is rich and exceedingly feasible.

A mountain of no particular name rises to the south-east of the Great Bridge; a range of hills north of this stretches along two miles or more between the Housatonic and Muddy brook, and in the north-east section are the Beartown mountains, which spread into Tyringham. But the most remarkable mountain in the town is Monument mountain, rising up directly from the east bank of the Housatonic, in the north part of the town, and extending into Stockbridge. It derived its name from a rude monument of stones on its south-eastern point, a few rods from the County road; which unhappily, a few years since, was thrown down by persons unknown, and the stones were scattered.

"The pile was six or eight feet in diameter, circular at its base, and raised in the form of an obtuse cone," (according to tradition,) "over the grave of one of the Aborigines. The manner in which it was formed, was the following. Every Indian who passed the place, threw a stone upon the tomb of his countryman. By this slow method of accumulation, the heap rose in a long series of years to the size just mentioned."

"The same mode of raising monuments for the dead," (See Dwight's Travels, vol. ii. p. 381,) "except in one particular, has existed among other nations. The Israelites raised a similar monument for Achan, for the king of Ai, and for Absalom. Whether this was done from motives of general respect for the dead, and thus in conformity to a general custom, or with a design to express their abhorrence of the persons buried, will admit of a doubt. The manner in which the phrase

"*the stones of the pit,*" is used by the prophet Isaiah, (Isa. xiv. 19) an allusion, I presume, to the same practice, does not remove the uncertainty. By the natives of America it seems to be an expression of peculiar reverence, and an act of obedience to the dictates of their religion." It has been said, but whether as a matter of tradition or imagination, may be questioned, that the person buried here was a female, who had thrown herself from the cliffs of the mountain, through the influence of a passionate love for a cousin, whom the religion of the natives would not allow her to marry, because the connection was deemed incestuous. Upon this tradition, (if it was one,) a poem was written some years since by William C. Bryant, Esq., then an inhabitant of this town, and published in the United States Literary Gazette.

That there were anciently Indian settlements in this town, is evident from various circumstances. In addition to utensils and weapons of Indian manufacture, which have been often found, it is known that as early as 1726, the river used to be crossed half a mile below the Bridge, at what was then called the "Great Wigwam." This place was sometimes called the "Castle," or rather, perhaps, the great wigwam standing upon it. There is also a tradition that there was a considerable Indian settlement at this spot. Indian graves have also been found three-fourths of a mile above the Bridge, on the east side of the river. One man in digging thirteen post holes, to secure his barn-yard, discovered the remains of six bodies.

This settlement must have been abandoned before the autumn of 1734; for at that time there were no Indians in the County, except at Stockbridge and Sheffield, and perhaps a family or two in New Marlborough. But in the two winters following, the Indians were collected from Stockbridge and Sheffield, somewhere in this town, for the purpose of receiving instruction more conveniently from the missionary and schoolmaster sent among them, previous to the final establishment of the mission in Stockbridge. They may have been collected at the Great Wigwam, but were probably further north.

The permanent settlement of Great Barrington by the whites, commenced about 1730, some years before

the survey was taken which has been mentioned. The lower part of the town was settled in connection with Sheffield. Settlements above the Bridge were begun as early as the year just named. Indeed it is said that Laurens and Samuel Suydam, (supposed to have been brothers,) from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., settled above the Bridge, and that Joshua White settled below it, before this period.

There were 40 proprietors of the upper Housatonic township. House or home lots were laid out for them on both sides of the river, from the Bridge to Monument mountain, and here the settlers began their improvements. From the house lots long equal lots were laid out to Tyringham line. The Hop-lands, (as they were called,) in the north-east part of the town, in the region of Hop brook, were laid out in the same way, while the land on Monument mountain and a part of the North plain, were laid out in *equalizing* lots, that is, in lots, to render the preceding divisions equal to each man's particular right.

Some of the early settlers were Dutch; others were English. Among the Dutch settlers were Joachim Van Valkenburgn, Isaac Van Deusen, Conrad and Hendrick Burghardt, and Meese Hogoboom; and among the English were Moses Ingersol, Moses and William King, Thomas Dewey, Hezekiah Phelps, Israel Orton, and Joshua Root. The grave-stone of Joshua Root informs us, that he died in 1730, which renders it certain that the settlement commenced at least as soon as that year.

About 1755, in the second French war, a block house was built, a mile above the Bridge, on the west side of the river, as a place of security to which the inhabitants might flee in case of an attack.

In the town are several extensive beds of limestone, some of iron ore, and one of white and variegated marble, near Green river, which has been lately opened. Works are already erected and in operation for the purpose of preparing it for market.

Formerly there was less enterprize here than in the neighboring places. The loss of the courts and other circumstances may have operated unfavorably upon the town. But within a few years the people have become

awake to their privileges. More attention is paid to agriculture, several manufacturing establishments have been formed, a considerable number of new buildings have been erected, and the village and town have assumed the appearance of thrift and prosperity.

There are now in the village, which stretches south from the Bridge about three-fourths of a mile, along the western border of the Housatonic, two houses for public worship, about 50 dwelling-houses, a post office, two taverns, four merchant stores, two large tanneries, a grist mill and plaster mill, and various mechanic shops.

On William's river, half a mile from its entrance into the Housatonic, where in 1822 there were only one or two dwelling-houses, a saw-mill and grist-mill, there is now a thriving village, called Van Deusenville. Here are now 18 dwelling-houses, a post office and tavern, two stores, and two factories, one of cotton and the other of woollen. Here also a chapel is now building for the worship of God.

In quite the north part of the town, bordering on Stockbridge and West Stockbridge, is the Housatonic Factory for the manufacture of cotton, connected with which is a machine shop; in both of which several hands are employed, and business is rendered somewhat lively about them.

The population of the town has recently considerably increased, and may now be, perhaps, 2200. There are about 250 dwelling-houses, and 750 other buildings. There are fourteen district schools where children and youth are taught from six to ten months in a year. There are also two select schools, instructed principally by females. Formerly there were one or two public libraries; but the books have been divided among the proprietors. There are in the whole town, 5 taverns, 7 stores, 2 grist-mills, and 17 saw-mills.

Two lines of daily stages pass through the town; one from Hartford to Albany, and the other from Pittsfield to Hudson.

The following fact is related by President Dwight, (See his Travels, vol. ii. p. 380,) as having occurred at the Great Bridge, which has been so often mentioned. It was recited to him by a respectable man, and he says he had no reason to question the recital, except what is

furnished by the nature of the fact itself. It is too remarkable not to be introduced here.

"A Mr. Van Rensselaer, a young gentleman from Albany, came one evening into an inn, kept by a Mr. Root, just at the eastern end of the bridge. The innkeeper, who knew him, asked him where he had crossed the river. He answered, "on the bridge." Mr. Root replied, that that was impossible; because it had been raised that very day; and that not a plank had been laid on it. Mr. Van Rensselaer said that it could not be true; because his horse had come over without any difficulty or reluctance; that the night was indeed so profoundly dark, as to prevent him from seeing any thing distinctly; but that it was incredible, if his horse could see sufficiently well to keep his footing any where, that he should not discern the danger, and impossible for him to pass over the bridge in that condition. Each went to bed dissatisfied; neither believing the story of the other. In the morning, Mr. Van Rensselaer went, at the solicitation of his host, to view the bridge; and finding it a naked frame, gazed for a moment with astonishment, and fainted."

Before a parish was formed in this place, the people in the south part of the town doubtless attended public worship in Sheffield, as they belonged there; others may have attended there or in Stockbridge. About 1742, the Rev. Thomas Strong, who afterwards settled in New Marlborough, preached to them as a candidate. In 1743, when there were only thirty families in the place, they employed and settled the Rev. Samuel Hopkins, afterwards Dr. Hopkins.

He was ordained on the 28th of December in that year, on which day the church was organized, consisting of the pastor, John and Jonah Pixley, James Sexton, Asahel King, and Jonathan Nash. On the 5th of February following, twelve others were added to the church. He remained in this charge until the 18th of January, 1769, when, at his own request, he was regularly and honorably dismissed by a council; having admitted to the church during his ministry, 116 members, 71 from the world, and 45 by recommendation from other churches. Only one of this number now belongs to this church. Probably no other is living.

Mr. Hopkins was installed over the first Congregational church in Newport, Rhode Island, on the 11th of April, 1770; where he continued as pastor, (except as he was driven from his labours, and his people were dispersed by the Revolutionary war,) until his death, Dec. 20, 1803, in the 83d year of his age.

He was born at Waterbury, Con., and was a direct lineal descendant of Stephen Hopkins, one of the blessed men who landed at Plymouth in December, 1620. He was graduated at Yale College in 1741, and read theology with the elder President Edwards, then minister at Northampton. His mental powers were strong, and fitted him for patient and deep investigation. His discourses were thoroughly studied, and full of instruction. While at Great Barrington and Newport, he published several sermons and books on subjects of doctrine, which excited considerable controversy: and in 1793, he published his System of Divinity. The sentiments advocated in this system, and in his other writings, waiving a few points, are the same which are entertained by the orthodox and evangelical clergy of N. England at the present day. In a sarcastical pamphlet, ascribed to the Rev. William Hart, of Saybrook, Con., which was published about 1770, or soon after, the doctrines advocated by Mr. Hopkins, and others who agreed with him, were called *Hopkintonian* doctrines. From this circumstance, the followers of Hopkins, or those who were supposed to agree with him, were called *Hopkintonians* or *Hopkinsians*. The name has now become common in the country, and it is applied in the Middle and Southern States to the orthodox in New England, whether they adopt the peculiar views of Hopkins or not.

Dr. Hopkins was greatly esteemed by his brethren in the ministry, who were intimately acquainted with him, for his knowledge of the Scriptures, for his piety and good sense. But the reader will find a much more full and satisfactory account of this venerable man, in the "Sketches of his Life," published by the late Dr. West, of Stockbridge, than can be given in this place.

After his dismission, the church here remained vacant more than 18 years, until the 4th of May, 1787, when

the Rev. Isaac Foster, a native of Connecticut, was set over it in the Lord. He was dismissed May 4, 1790. Twelve were admitted to the church in the vacancy preceding his ordination, and five were admitted by him. He obtained his collegiate education at Yale College, where he took his first degree in 1776.

From the time of his dismission, the church was vacant over 16 years, until the ordination of the Rev. Elijah Wheeler, Sept. 24, 1806. The congregation had now become small, and the church, though 11 persons had been admitted in the preceding vacancy, consisted of only 20 members, 6 males and 14 females. During his ministry, there was a regular increase of members and strength, so that when he was dismissed, at his request, in consequence of ill health, on the 12th of February, 1823, the church embraced 126 members. He admitted 152.

He was born at Pomfret, Con., and educated a physician. But becoming a subject of grace, he relinquished the practice of physic, and studied theology. He was much devoted to his work, though feeble; and after languishing several years in a consumption, he died in peace, March 20, 1827, aged 53.

The Rev. Sylvester Burt was installed on the same day on which Mr. Wheeler was dismissed; having been previously settled, first at Western, in Worcester county, and afterwards at New Marlborough, in this County. He was born at Southampton, and graduated at Williams College, 1804.

In 1821-2, there was a precious revival of religion in this congregation. About 50 were added to the church. There have been partial revivals since, and the church, at the commencement of the present year, consisted of 171 members. Mr. Burt has admitted 74.

Beside the Congregational, there is an Episcopal church in this town.

It has been mentioned that some of the first settlers were Dutch, and others English. The former were Lutherans, and the latter Congregationalists. Though accustomed to different modes of worship, and entertaining different views of church privileges, they happily united in building a house for public worship, and in settling a minister. But at length their different views of church

privileges led on to unhappy events and transactions, (which need not be related,) that resulted in a separation. The people, more generally of Dutch extraction, withdrew, and uniting with individuals who were before Episcopalians, formed an Episcopal society. The church was instituted about 1760, by the Rev. Solomon Palmer, then a missionary at Litchfield and New Milford, Con., from the Society in England for propagating religion in Foreign Parts. Mr. Palmer was removed to the Episcopal congregation in New Haven, in 1763, but resumed his charge in Litchfield in 1766, where he died in 1770. It is understood that he preached at Great Barrington, both before and after his labours at New Haven; but how frequently is not known.

The Rev. Gideon Bostwick succeeded him in Great Barrington the same year in which he died, having then just returned from England, where he had been to obtain orders. During his ministry, he had the spiritual oversight of the Episcopalians in Lenox and Lanesborough, and often preached in those places. In the latter part of his life, he preached a part of the time in Hudson, New York. He was graduated at New Haven in 1762, and died at New Milford, his native place, while on a visit to his friends, June 13, 1793, aged 50. His remains were brought to this place and interred. He is said to have possessed a pleasant temper, social manners, and popular address, and to have been greatly beloved by his people.

After his decease, the people were supplied for short periods by several clergymen.

About 1805, the Rev. Samuel Griswold, from Simsbury, Con., became their pastor, and sustained that relation until 1821. He is now residing in Mexico, in the State of New York.

The Rev. Solomon Blakesley, a native of North Haven, Con., and graduate of Yale College, 1785, was their pastor from September, 1821, until May, 1827. He is now at Butternuts, N. Y.

In September, 1828, the Rev. Sturges Gilbert, who had been settled in Woodbury, Con., took the pastoral charge of this people, and is now their minister.

The number of communicants is about 100, and the

number who contribute to the support of Episcopal worship, is 134.

The Society have a parsonage house and lands near their present church, which was erected in 1764. With a view of accommodating the increasing population in the north part of the Society, they are now building a chapel at Van Deusenville. This is of brick, 64 feet by 40. When this is completed, it is expected that there will be preaching alternately in the church and in the chapel. The Baptists are to have the privilege of using this for a part of the time.

The Congregational and Episcopal societies were incorporated by the Legislature in 1791; and the year after, a Baptist society was incorporated, though there is no organized church of this denomination in town. The Baptist professors belong to churches in other places.

There are some Methodists in town, principally in the east and north-east parts of it.

*Physicians in Great Barrington.*

John Breck, Joseph Lee, Samuel Lee, *William Whiting*, John Budd, Samuel Reed, Samuel Baldwin, Thomas Barstow, Samuel Barstow, Royal Fowler, Benjamin Rogers, Thomas Bolton, George Langdon, Thomas Drake, Ransom Hollenbeck, and Alvan Wheeler.

*Lawyers.*

Col. *Mark Hopkins;* a native of Waterbury, Con., graduate of Yale College, 1758; admitted to the bar about 1761; an able lawyer; died at White Plains, while engaged in defence of his country, in the Revolutionary war, Oct. 26, 1776, aged 37.

*David Ingersol;* a native of this town; graduate of Yale College, 1761; admitted to the bar about 1763; became a tory; went to England in the autumn of 1774, where he died.

Theodore Sedgwick; removed, first to Sheffield, then to Stockbridge; the late Judge Sedgwick.

Gen. *Thomas Ives;* a native of North Haven, Con.; graduate of Yale, 1777; admitted to the bar, 1784; special justice; died March 8, 1814, aged 61.

Erastus Pixley; a native of this town; graduate of Yale, 1780; moved into Vermont.

Gen. *John Whiting;* a native of this town; admitted to the bar 1792.

Mason Whiting; a native of this town; admitted to the bar 1794; moved to Chenango Point, N. Y.

Robert L. Potter; a native of New Haven, Con.; admitted to the bar 1809; moved to Meadville, Pennsylvania.

George H. Ives; native of this town; admitted to the bar 1810; died April 27, 1825, aged 36.

*James A. Hyde;* a native of New Marlborough; graduate of Williams College, 1807; admitted to the bar 1811.

*William C. Bryant;* a native of Cummington; now editor of the Evening Post, N. Y.

John C. Whiting; a native of this town; graduate of Union College 1822; admitted to the bar 1825.

Increase Sumner; a native of Otis; admitted to the bar 1825.

The physicians and lawyers whose names are in italics, have been magistrates in the town. Dr. William Whiting was judge of the County Court. Besides these, the following gentlemen have been acting magistrates, viz. Gen. Joseph Dwight, of whom a sketch will be given, Elijah Dwight, special justice and Judge of County Court, Jonathan Nash, Moses Hopkins, special justice, Samuel Whiting. special justice, Stephen Sibley, Miles Avery, Ezra Kellogg, David Leavenworth, Lucius King, Jacob H. Van Deusen, and Isaac L. Van Deusen. Truman Wheeler, David Wainwright, George Beckwith, Caleb Stanley, Benjamin Rogers, Grocius Dewey, William Dewey, and Ralph Taylor, have been appointed justices, but have not taken the oath which the law prescribes. There may, perhaps, have been some others.

Gen. Joseph Dwight was born in Dedham in 1703. His early advantages for education are not known. In 1733 he was admitted to the bar in the county of Hampshire, being then an inhabitant of Brookfield. Concerning the extent of his practice, there is no information. He soon entered upon military life, and distinguished himself as commander of the artillery of Massachusetts in 1745, at the memorable capture of Louisburg, on Cape Breton, particularly in conveying the

ordnance and military stores across the extensive and miry morass west of the town, and in the subsequent attack on the walls.

In 1756, he went at the head of a brigade of Massachusetts militia to Lake Champlain, in the second French war. Soon after his return from the north, he purchased a situation in this town, where he continued the remainder of his days. When this County was formed, in 1761, he was appointed Judge of the County Court and Judge of Probate; both which offices he retained until his death, June 9, 1765, aged 62.

His personal appearance was very fine. He was dignified in his manners, an upright judge, and an exemplary professor of the religion of the gospel. No man in the County, in civil life, was more esteemed; and aged people still speak of him with the greatest respect.

For his second wife, he married the widow of the Rev. John Sergeant, a woman of superior understanding and ardent piety, by whom he had two children, the late Henry Williams Dwight, Esq., of Stockbridge, and the second wife of the late Judge Sedgwick, of the same town.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF ALFORD.

BY NORMAN LESTER, ESQ.

---

This town is of irregular form. Its greatest length is a little more than 5 miles, and its greatest breadth a little more than 3. Its area is about 6332 acres, somewhat less than ten square miles. It is bounded on the west by the State of New York, on the north by West Stockbridge, on the east by Great Barrington, and on the south by Egremont. It consists of several tracts of land. One on the south-west, bordering on Egremont, called the *Shawenon* purchase, was obtained of the Stockbridge Indians, it is said, in the year 1736. Another tract, called the Greenland Grant, north of this, is supposed to have been granted by the Legislature to David Ingersol, Esq., formerly an inhabitant of Great Barrington. A section on the east side of the town, 652 rods long, 210 broad on the north line, and 266 on the south, was taken from Great Barrington, when the town was incorporated in 1773. By an addition to the south end of this, in 1819, it became 712 rods in length. Many years since, a small strip of land was annexed to the west side of the town, which fell into this State, upon the final establishment of the boundary line between Massachusetts and New York.

The time when the town began to be settled, is not precisely known. There may have been some families here as early as 1740, but were not many before about

1750 or 55. In 1773 there were about as many inhabtiants as there are at the present time.

Among the early settlers were Dea. Eleazer Barret, Ebenezer Barret, Dea. Robert Johnson, John and Simeon Hulburt, and the ancestors of the Speary, Wilcox, Kelsey, Hamlin, and Baker families, most of them, perhaps all, from Connecticut. There were also families by the name of Brunson, Fenton, Munger, and Warner, which are now extinct in town. The place has been remarkable for changing its inhabitants. Many have removed to the western part of New York, and to the northern part of Ohio. But few of the descendants of the first settlers remain among us.

The west part of the town is mountainous. Tom Ball also extends into the north-east corner of the town from West Stockbridge and Great Barrington, south of which is a chain of hills.

A stream, one branch of which rises in West Stockbridge, and another in the State of New York, runs from north to south through the eastern part of this town, on which are three saw-mills, one grist-mill, a fulling mill, a carding machine, a stone saw-mill, and a small tannery. This stream passes into Great Barrington, receives the outlet of Long Pond, and assumes the name of Seekonk brook. Green river crosses the south-west corner of the town, on which is another grist-mill. The above are all the mills in town. There are two marble quarries, but they are not much improved. We have one store, a tavern, and a post-office.

The people are very generally engaged in the cultivation of the earth. The tops and some parts of the sides of the mountains are rocky and barren, covered only with small timber. The vales between the mountains are interspersed with hills and lime ledges, considerable portions of which are fit for tillage and grass. Except on the mountains, the soil is generally good. Some of it, especially on the north part, is gravelly, some of it is a loam, with an intermixture of clay.

In 1820, the number of inhabitants was 570. In 1821 there were 72 dwelling-houses; since which, several old houses have been taken down, and new ones built, but the number has not increased. There are three district *schools, in* which about 240 scholars are taught. The

schools are kept about eight months in the year; about half the time by male, and the other half by female teachers.

The inhabitants were originally Congregationalists; and a Congregational church formerly existed here, respectable for numbers. The Rev. Joseph Avery was settled over it about 1779 or 80; but in consequence of the tumults which took place in the Shays rebellion, was dismissed about 1787. He was re-settled in Tyringham; and the church and society, after languishing for a time, became extinct.

The people are divided on religious subjects. A portion of them early became Baptists: about 1786 or 7, some became Methodists.

In 1817, a number of individuals of different denominations, viz. Congregationalists, Baptists, and Methodists, united in building a house for public worship by subscription, and agreed to call it the "*Union Meeting-house.*" The Methodists were to occupy it one half of the time, and the other denominations the other half. The house is 46 feet by 34 on the ground.

*Physicians in the town.*

John Hulburt, Forward Barnum, and Thomas Drake.

*Magistrates.*

Dr. Hulburt, William Brunson, Abner Kellogg, Philander Hulburt, Amos Kellogg, Elihu Lester, Norman Lester, and Hugo Dewey.

The late Rev. Aaron Kinne spent the latter years of his life in this town.

He was ordained over the first Congregational church in Groton, Con. in October, 1770; but his people were so diminished and weakened by the awful massacre at Fort Griswold, Sept. 6, 1781, that they could give him afterwards only a partial support, and in 1798, it became necessary that he should be dismissed. Both before and after his dismission, he went as a missionary, and labored for limited periods in the new settlements in the State of New York. In 1800 he moved into Winsted, a parish in Winchester, Con. and contributed very much by his preaching and prudence to unite the church and people in that place, and to lay a foundation for the prosperity which they have since enjoy-

ed. In 1803 he moved to Egremont, and two years after he moved to this town, in both which places, he preached often, especially in Egremont, where his labors were greatly blessed. At times he was employed by the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society to labour in these towns, and in Mount Washington. In the summer of 1824. he went into the state of Ohio, where he died suddenly in an apoplectic fit, in the town of Talmadge, five days after his arrival there, at the house of his son in law, Dr. Wright, on the 9th day of July, in the 80th year of his age.

Mr. Kinne was born at Norwich, Con. in Newent society, now a part of the town of Lisbon, and was graduated at Yale College in 1765. He possessed a sound understanding, which he retained to an unusual degree to the very close of life, and he was highly respectable as a scholar. Though not a graceful, he was still an interesting preacher. His sermons were full of thought and instruction, conveyed in appropriate and energetic language. The doctrines of grace were familiar to him, and he excelled in the knowledge of the historical, prophetical and typical parts of scripture.—Besides contributions to the Connecticut Evangelical Magazine, Panoplist, and some small works, he published in 1814, "An explanation of the Principal Types, the Prophecies of Daniel and Hosea, the Revelation, and other symbolical passages of the Holy Scriptures," in an octavo volume of 389 pages. A volume of sermons which he prepared for publication, may yet pass through the press.

He was a man of prayer: three times in the course of the morning on which he died, he was discovered engaged in private devotion.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE.

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

In the autumn of 1734, a mission was commenced among the Housatonic Indians by Mr. John Sergeant, then a candidate for the ministry, assisted by Mr. Timothy Woodbridge as schoolmaster. They were patronized by the Board of Commissioners for Indian Affairs in Boston, of which his Excellency Jonathan Belcher, then British Governor of Massachusetts, and Dr Benjamin Colman, a clergyman in Boston, were the most active and influential members. About half of these Indians, then reduced to 8 or 10 families, lived in the Great Meadow on the Housatonic, in this town, south of the Plain, called by them Wnahktukook. Here Konkapot, the principal Indian, resided, who had just before been honored by Gov. Belcher with a captain's commission, and whose desire to be instructed in Christianity had led on, more than any other circumstance, to the establishment of the mission. His cabin stood on a knoll, a few rods north of Konkapot brook, on the east side of the county road. The other Indians lived on their reservation in Sheffield, called by them Skatehook, about 10 miles south. There Umpachene resided, whom Gov. Belcher had made a lieutenant. Their living in these separate settlements, it was perceived at once, would seriously interfere with their instruction, especially with the schooling of the children. To remedy this evil in some measure for the time being, the Indians agreed to dwell together in the winter season, about half way between their settlements; and they

immediately began the erection of a public house at the place selected, (somewhere in Great Barrington, though the precise spot is not known) which should serve the double purpose of a meeting-house and school-house. Around this they erected small huts for the accommodation of their families, and in a short time all moved thither. But then it was necessary for them to return to their settlements in the spring to plant, and to pursue their means of living upon their own grounds. It became therefore an important object for them, and others who should unite with them, to provide for their dwelling permanently together; for although their number was now small, they belonged to a large tribe of Indians, who had been commonly called by the English, *River Indians*, some of whom lived in the northwest corner of Connecticut, and more at various places westward within the bounds of New-York. Could a suitable and sufficient township be obtained, it was expected their settlement would become considerably large.

Made acquainted with their situation, the Legislature, on the 17th of March, 1735, granted them a township, six miles square, to be laid out on the Housatonic river, immediately north of Monument Mountain, provided the proprietors and settlers of the upper Housatonic township could be induced to give up their right to that portion of their lands on which the new township would partly fall. The design was, to include the fine alluvial grounds at Wnahktukook, already cleared and cultivated to some extent, where a part of the Indians then lived, and where they might easily raise corn and other articles of food, and supply themselves with fish from the river. This spot, with the lands immediately about it, protected in part on all sides by mountains from the rage of the elements, was selected with admirable judgment to be the seat of the mission. But how to free the lands, justly and honorably, from incumbrance, was the difficulty.

A committee, consisting of John Stoddard, Ebenezer Pomroy, and Thomas Ingersoll, Esquires, were appointed "to weigh and consider all things and circumstances" relative to the location and settlement of the town, to confer with the Indians and learn their views and

wishes; to sell their reservation in Sheffield, to satisfy the proprietors and settlers of the upper Housatonic township, (should an arrangement be effected,) so far as it would go; to give the proprietors living below Monument mountain what more should be necessary to indemnify them for their loss in the ungranted lands in the vicinity, and to the proprietors above the mountain, who were expected to remove, an equivalent in some of the ungranted lands of the Province, either in the vicinity or elsewhere. Should no insurmountable obstacles occur, the committee were to proceed further, and actually lay out the town; in doing which, one sixtieth part of it was to be reserved for the missionary; another sixtieth part for the schoolmaster, and a sufficient portion for four other English families, who should settle in it, and assist them in their great and benevolent work.

They had little difficulty in performing the duties assigned them, except with two or three Dutchmen who had settled above the mountain. At length, however, these agreed to come to an accommodation. Jehoiakim Van Valkenburgh, a special friend of Capt. Konkapot, who sometimes acted as his interpreter, to whom he had given 40 acres of land in Wnahktukook, and 250 acres of upland adjoining, sold out, and moved below the mountain. The purchasers gave the land to the Indians, taking an equivalent in unappropriated lands from the Legislature. The spot on which Van Valkenburgh lived is said to be that now occupied by Mr. Francis Dresser.

In April, 1736, the committee laid out the town in an exact square. The west and east parallel lines ran north 9 deg. east, 770 rods in the upper Housatonic township and 1150 above it, in all 1920; the south and north parallel lines ran east, 9 deg. south, from the supposed boundary of New York the same distance. There fell in the Housatonic township 9240 acres, and northward of it, 13,800; total 23,040. The survey included the present townships of Stockbridge and W. Stockbridge.

In May, the committee reported their doings to the Legislature; and early in this month the Indians moved into the town, with two new families added to their number. Others moved in soon after, so that by the

close of June there were more than 90 souls in the settlement.

In the month of August, Mr. Sergeant visited Gov. Belcher at Boston with some of the Indians, who expressed great thankfulness for the kindness the *Government* had bestowed upon them, particularly in granting them a township, for the conveniency of their living together. And in return, (in addition to the reservation in Sheffield,) "gave up their challenge to two miles of land, one mile on each side of the road from *Housatunnuk* to *Westfield*," a much greater tract than that given to them in the new township, though probably of less value. They also "prayed for the assistance of *Government* in building them a *meeting-house* and *school-house*."

In January, 1737, the subject being laid before them by the Governor, the Legislature ordered that a *meeting-house*, 30 feet broad and 40 long, together with a school house, should be built for the Indians at the charge of the Province: Col. Stoddard of Northampton, Mr. Sergeant and Mr. Woodbridge were appointed a committee to see that the order was executed.

On the 7th of May, in this year, the grant of the town was formally confirmed to the Indians, their heirs and assigns; and in 1739 the town was incorporated, and called Stockbridge, doubtless after Stockbridge in England.

It was some time before the meeting-house and school-house were erected, probably owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials. But by the 29th of November, 1739, the day of public thanksgiving in the Commonwealth, the meeting-house was so far completed, that it was opened for the worship of God. This stood a few rods north-east from the site of the present south meeting-house. The frame is now the frame of a barn half a mile west, on a farm belonging to the Hon. Henry W. Dwight. The school-house stood in the street, nigh the dwelling-house of the writer.

The settlement gradually increased for many years. The number of souls in it in March, 1740, was 120. Families came in from various places. In the spring of 1744, the inhabitants of a small village, called *Kaunumeek*, on the flat about Brainerd's Bridge, 6 miles

west of New Lebanon, where David Brainerd labored about a year, moved here, agreeably to the advice of that celebrated missionary. In January, 1747, there were nearly 50 families and probably nearly 200 souls; in July, 1749, 53 families and 218 souls. They were afterwards increased to about 400; and I have seen a statement, entitled to regard, which implies that at one time they were much more numerous. They may have been sometimes more and sometimes less than 400, by the accession and removal of families; for by natural increase they hardly held their own. But 400 was, as far as is known, about their average number while they remained in this town.

Prior to the Revolutionary war, a township (6 miles square,) afterwards called New Stockbridge, was given to them by the Oneidas in the State of New York. They were prevented from removing to this tract until after the peace of 1783. Some removed in the course of that year; they more generally removed in 1785, and the residue in 1788. At the time of their removal their number was about 420. In 1810, they are said to have been more than 600; but they afterwards diminished to 450.

In 1822, these Indians began to remove to Green Bay, on the southern shore of Lake Michigan, on to a tract of 5,000,000 acres, purchased for them and other Indians in the State of New York, for $5,000, of the Menominie and Winnebago tribes. They are now nearly all removed on to the tract, where they have a settlement which bears the name of their settlement in New York. The head of Green Bay is near the centre of their purchase.

The residence of Capt. Konkapot in this town, the principal man among the Indians when the mission was commenced, has been mentioned. King Ben, [Benjamin Kokkewenaunaut] had a house on the elevated ground back from the Housatonic, half a mile west of the Plain. In 1771, being then 94 years old, this man said to the Indians that they must appoint another king, and king Solomon [Solomon Unhaunnauwaunnatt] was chosen his successor. Solomon's house was on the south bank of the Housatonic, opposite "Little Hill." He died *in Feb.* 1777, aged about 50. King Ben lived

until April, 1781, being 104 years old. Some of the Indian houses were on the Plain, some on the meadows near the river, and a few about Barnum's brook. There is no evidence that they ever resided in West Stockbridge in any considerable numbers. Two or three families lived for a time on the flat on the Housatonic, nigh the dwelling-house of Elijah Andrews. That town was separated from this in 1774, many years before their removal to the State of New York.

Though these Indians were at first called *River Indians* by the English, they were afterwards more generally denominated Housatonic Indians, until the incorporation of this town. Since that time they have been commonly called Stockbridge Indians. They have also sometimes, as well as the tribe at New London, Con., been called Mohegans, which is a corruption of their proper name, Muhhekaneews. This is derived from an Indian word, Muhhekaneew in the singular, and Muhhekaneok in the plural, which as interpreted by themselves, signifies, "*the people of the great waters, continually in motion.*".

"Their history, as derived from the traditions of their ancestors, by one of the tribe," says President Dwight, in his Travels, vol. ii. p. 384, "is summarily the following:"

"They came from a distant country, west by north; i. e. a country lying in that direction from their present residence; crossed over the great waters, which separate that country from this, and after a series of pilgrimages, arrived on the borders of Hudson's river. Here they settled, and spread through the neighbouring country. Their ancestors, they say, were much more civilized than their descendants; lived in towns and villages, and were very numerous; but, being dispersed by a famine, they were obliged to seek for subsistence in distant regions. In the progress, they lost their arts and manners; or in the language of the historian "apostatized." Before they began sensibly to diminish, they could furnish on any emergency a thousand warriors; and of course consisted of about four or five thousand persons; probably, however, not more than four thousand."

"It ought to be added," says the President, "from this writer, that when their ancestors came to Hudson's river, they there first after passing over the great waters, "where," to use the language of the historian, "this and the other country is nearly connected, saw ebbing and flowing waters; and said one to another, this is like Muhheakunnuk, the place of our nativity." In the description given above of their route, this account is precisely established. Between the Straits of Behring, by which America and Asia "are nearly connected," and Albany, the course is as near west by north, as we can suppose such a tribe, wandering over such a distance, would place it, and the waters of the Hudson would be the first "ebbing and flowing waters" which emigrants would discover, after they had left those straits. In one instance, therefore, we have an Indian tradition, directly asserting, in terms which cannot easily be misconstrued, that the Americans, partly at least, came from the eastern shore of Asia.

Concerning the language of these Indians, the younger President Edwards shows, in a dissertation read in 1788, before the Connecticut Society of Arts and Sciences, that it was the common language of the Indians in New England, of the Penobscots bordering on Nova Scotia, of the Indians of St. Francis, in Canada, and of tribes far to the west and south, with the exception of the Iroquois, that it was spoken more generally than any other Indian language in North America. Different tribes of course used different dialects: but the language was radically the same. Elliot's translation of the Bible was into a particular dialect of it.

In this language there is no diversity of gender, either in nouns or pronouns. With regard to cases, these Indians use but one variation from the nominative, formed by adding the syllable *an*, as *wnechun*, *nechunan*, his child. They form the plural by adding a letter or syllable to the singular, as *nemannauw*, a man, *nemannauk*, men; *penumpauso*, a boy, *penumpausoouk*, boys. They distinguish the natural relations of men to each other more carefully than we do, or perhaps any other nation, having one word to express an elder brother, *netokcon*, another to express a younger brother, *nghes-sum*, &c. They have no adjectives in their language,

unless we recken numerals and such words as *all, many,* &c. adjectives. They have no relative corresponding to who or which, but instead of *the man who walks,* they say the walking man, or the walker, &c. Besides their use of *prefixes* and *suffixes,* Dr. Edwards discovered a remarkable analogy between some words in their language, and the corresponding words in the Hebrew.

This tribe was considered by itself, and acknowledged by the other tribes as being the eldest branch of their nation, and as such had regularly the precedence in their councils.

But what was the effect of the mission upon these Indians?

One incidental and very important effect was, that their friendship was effectually secured to the English. They performed numerous kind offices for the early settlers of this County and for others who passed through it, acting as their guides and interpreters. In time of war they were spies for the English, and often fought, and sometimes shed their blood in their armies. Though Fort Massachusetts was repeatedly attacked in the time of the first French war, and terror was spread through all this region; though Mr. Sergeant's house was garrisoned and perhaps some others in the town, yet in consequence, as it was supposed at the time, of the well known friendship of the Muhhekaneews, no hostile Indians ventured down into the vicinity of this place, and the southern section of the County was saved from such calamities as befel some of the settlements on Connecticut river, and others to the west in the State of N. Y. And though in the second French war the few families in Williamstown, Lanesborough and Pittsfield were disturbed; and though in one instance, in 1754, as it is generally stated, but in the summer of 1755, as the time is given by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, in his appendix to the Redeemed Captive, a small party came into the centre of the County, two of which attacked a family in Stockbridge; yet the mischief was little, compared with what probably would have been done, had it not been for the friendship of the Stockbridge tribe. There was indeed a suspicion for a time that they were in some way concerned in this attack. But of this proof was *wanting.* "Upon investigation, the enemy was found

to consist of the Scatekook tribe, who had instigated the Orondocks and others to the invasion." The family attacked was that of Mr. Joshua Chamberlain, who lived on the "Hill," on the ground now occupied by the house of Mr. Stephen Hull. The attack was made on the Sabbath, while the people generally were attending public worship. The Indians were bravely opposed by a hired man of Mr. Chamberlain, by the name of Owen. But his resistance only enabled Mr. Chamberlain and wife to escape, he at length falling under his wounds, and dying very soon. The Indians scalped him, and killed and scalped one child, and carried away another, which they soon killed, in consequence of discovering that a party was in pursuit of them. At the same time that this affair took place, the people were fleeing hither for safety from Pittsfield and Lenox. In this flight a person was killed in the edge of Lenox, a little north of the house in this town formerly belonging to Dea. Samuel Whelpley. By this invasion, alarm was produced in the County, and old fortifications were repaired, or new ones built. Very soon after this, the Stockbridge Indians were received as soldiers in the service of Massachusetts, and showed how they had been slandered, by fighting for the whites. In the Revolutionary war, a part of the company of minute men under the command of Capt. Goodrich of this town, was composed of Indians. These acted as rangers for a time in the vicinity of Boston, under Capt. Timothy Yokun, one of their own tribe. A full company went to the White Plains, under Capt. Daniel Nimham, where four were slain, and some died of sickness. Numbers served at other places. At the close of the war, Timothy Edwards and others, contractors for supplying a division of the army at West Point with provisions, were ordered by Gen. Washington, (as the tradition is here,) to give the Indians a feast, in consideration of their good conduct in the service. An ox, weighing 1100, was roasted whole, the whole tribe partook of it, the men first, and then the women, according to custom. The Rev. John Sergeant (the younger) and a Mr. Deane presided at the table, and the principal men of the place attended. The feast was kept near the residence of king Solomon; and after this was over, the Indians

buried the hatchet, in token that the war was past, and performed some other ceremonies in their own style, for the gratification of the company.

But how far were they civilized and christianized? To judge correctly of this, it must be remembered that when the mission was established among them, they were in the common debased state of the Aborigines generally in our country. The school commenced by Mr. Woodbridge in the autumn of 1734 was kept by him many years, and was regularly kept afterwards (for some time by Mr. John Sergeant, Jun.) until the Indians emigrated to the region of the Oneidas. In this, the body of the Indian children were instructed, and probably obtained as good an education as English children at that period generally did in the common schools of New England.

In 1741, Mr. Sergeant projected the plan of a boarding school, which was summarily this: That a tract of land of about 200 acres should be set aside for the use of the school, and a house erected upon it; that a number of children and youth, between the ages of 10 and 20, should be received, and placed under the care of two masters, one of whom should take the oversight of them in their hours of *labour*, and the other in their hours of *study*, and that their time should be so divided between the hours of labour and study, as to make one the diversion of the other; that the fruit of their labours should go towards their maintainance, and to carry on the general design, and that a stock of cattle should be maintained on the place for the same purpose. It was also proposed to take into the number, on certain conditions, children from any of the Indian tribes around, that by their means the principles of virtue and christian knowledge might be spread as far as possible.

This project was very popular among the Indian and English inhabitants of this place, and much was eventually done by them, considering their circumstances, for promoting it. It was also popular with the commissioners and their friends in Boston. But before much was done, the first French war commenced, which rendered it necessary that the actual establishment of the school should be postponed for a season. In the *mean while*, as the Corporation for Indian Affairs, un-

der which the commissioners acted, existed in London,* the project attracted the favorable notice of such blessed men there as Dr. Isaac Watts and Capt. Thomas Coram, who exerted themselves to raise funds for the support of the school. The Prince of Wales headed a subscription with 20 guineas, and a few others high in rank and office subscribed for it. Mr. Isaac Hollis made provision at first for supporting 12 boys, and afterwards for supporting 24, and was so anxious that the children should be instructed immediately, that Mr. Sergeant took 12 under his care in the beginning of 1748. But as it was not altogether safe for them to remain here during the war, he procured Capt. Martin Kellogg, of Newington, in Wethersfield, Con., to take them in May, and instruct them for a year. In 1749, the war being closed, a house for the boarding school was erected, which stood on the southern end of the garden belonging to Mr. Benoni C. Wells.

The heart of Mr. Sergeant was drawn exceedingly towards this school. His successor, President Edwards, thought much of it, and directly after his settlement in this place, a large council from the Six Nations sat here to consider the subject of sending their children to the school. After it was opened, the Rev. Gideon Hawley, afterwards missionary at Marshpee, it is understood, instructed it for a time. "He taught a few families of Mohawks, Oneidas and Tuskaroras." The Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, who afterwards settled in Sharon, Con., also instructed it for a season. But arrangements for managing the school were never very thoroughly made; and admirable as was the plan, and as much as it promised, the occurrence of the second French war nearly destroyed it.

Notwithstanding this unhappy issue, however, in this school, in connection with the common school, a considerable number of Indians received a good education. A few also were instructed at the Indian charity school at Hanover, N. H., and Peter Pohquonnoppeet was graduated at the College in that town in 1780. This *Sir Peter*, as he was commonly called, was a man of

* The mission was finally supported by the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge.

good talents and character, and connected with Joseph Quanaukaunt, Capt. Hendrick Aupaumut, and Capt. John Konkapot, in a council, which after the decease of king Solomon, regulated the affairs of the tribe. The regal power, it is said, belonged to Joseph Quanaukaunt; but being a very modest and unassuming, as well as sensible man, he chose not to be king, but wished the tribe to be governed by a council.

Many of the Indians were fitted for the transaction of all ordinary business. A part of the town offices were uniformly sustained by them while they remained in this place. The speech of one of the chiefs to the Massachusetts Congress in 1775, in Bingham's Columbian Orator, tendering his services in the Revolutionary war, may be taken as a specimen of the talent at oratory which some of them possessed.

As to religion, it is evident that the Spirit of God was poured forth under the ministry of Mr. Sergeant, and that his labours were blessed to the conversion of many souls. The Lord's supper was first administered here on the 4th of June, 1738; but as a number had made a profession years before, the church must be considered as previously existing, although we have no express account of the time and manner of its organization. About 100, from first to last, made a profession of christianity; and though it is not certain all these were genuine converts, yet we have no authority for restricting the operations of grace entirely to those who became professors, nor indeed to the members of this tribe: for considerable numbers from other tribes occasionally listened here to the instructions of the gospel.

But the extent to which they were civilized and christianized, will be more fully understood by attending to the labours of the successive missionaries.

At the time Mr. Sergeant received his appointment, he was a tutor in Yale College. He visited the Indians in the autumn of 1734, and again in the spring of 1735, and in July in the latter year, having relinquished the duties of the tutorship, he took up his residence with the Indians for life. On the 31st of August following, he was ordained at Deerfield, where Gov. Belcher had made an appointment to meet some Indian tribes about that time, for the purpose of making a treaty with them.

The ordination took place on the Sabbath, in the presence of the congregation usually worshipping there, of the Governor and a large committee of both houses of the Legislature, of the Indians collected from several tribes, and of some of the Housatonic Indians, who sat by themselves, and formally received Mr. Sergeant as their missionary.

In the winters of 1734 and 5, and of 1735 and 6, the Indians were instructed in Great Barrington, and in the intermediate summer in Sheffield and Stockbridge. Upon their removal to this town in May in the year last mentioned, Mr. Woodbridge removed here and boarded with Capt. Konkapot. Mr. Sergeant boarded with a family in Great Barrington until Jan. 1737, when he moved into town, and boarded with Mr. Woodbridge, who had settled in a family state. The first residence of Mr. Woodbridge was on the "Hill," eastward from the house of Dea. Josiah Jones. He afterwards built a house on the farm now owned by Mr. Samuel Goodrich. In the course of 1737, Mr. Sergeant built the house on the "Plain," occupied at the present time by the widow of Gen. Silas Pepoon, and which is now the oldest house in town. He afterwards built the house on the Hill, now occupied by his grandson, Maj. Sewall Sergeant. In this he died.

Ignorant of their language, Mr. Sergeant at first instructed the Indians, of necessity, by the aid of an interpreter. In this way he translated into their language some prayers for their daily use, and Watts' first catechism for the benefit of children. But as the disadvantages of this mode were many, he applied himself diligently to the study of the language, and in August, 1737, began to declare unto them in their own tongue the wonderful works of God. Afterwards he made such proficiency in it, that the Indians were accustomed to say he spoke their language better than they did.

This year, Col. Ephraim Williams from Newton, and Mr. Josiah Jones from Weston, two of the persons expected to settle here and aid Mr. Sergeant and Mr Woodbridge, emigrated to this town with their families. Both settled on the "Hill;" Col. Williams first built a house nearly opposite to the house now belonging to Mr. Ephraim Williams, and afterwards the house owned

by the late Dr. West; and Mr. Jones built a house on the ground now occupied by his grandson, Dea. Josiah Jones. Mr. Joseph Woodbridge, brother of the schoolmaster, from West Springfield, and Mr. Ephraim Brown from the place now called Spencer, the other two persons contemplated, came here afterwards. Mr. Woodbridge had a house on the corner of the lot, between the Housatonic turnpike and the eastern side of the road running over the "Hill," to the east of Maj. Edward Burrall's. Mr. Brown settled half a mile to the north-west from Col. Williams, though he did not remain long in town, but was succeeded by Samuel Brown, a cousin.

The accession of these valuable men was doubtless useful to the mission, furnishing the Indians with a practical and constant exhibition of the influence of civilization and christianity on the concerns, relations and duties of life and godliness; but they greatly increased Mr. Sergeant's labors: for he had afterwards to discharge the duties of a minister both to the English and Indians. On the sabbath he used to begin public worship with a short pathetic prayer for a blessing on the word in both languages; and then read a portion of Scripture with explanatory notes and observations, in both, on such passages as seemed most to need them. All his public prayers and the communion service were in both languages; and it was his constant practice to preach four sermons every Lord's day, two to the *English* and two to the *Indians;* except in the short days and cold season of the winter, when he preached three, one to the *English* and two to the *Indians.* Besides all this, in the summer season it was his constant custom to spend about an hour with the Indians, after divine service was over in the afternoon, instructing, exhorting, warning, and cautioning them, in a free, familiar and pathetic manner, in their own language; and in the winter season he commonly met with them one evening in the week for religious exercises. His sermons and comments on passages of Scripture for the Indians, were first written in English, and then translated into the Indian tongue. In the course of his readings to them, he translated the account of the creation, of the *fall of man,* the calling of Abraham, God's dealings

with the patriarchs and the children of Israel, the prophecies concerning the coming of Christ, &c., the four Evangelists, the Acts of the Apostles, and all the Epistles; while in his discourses to the English, he went through all the Epistles, with a labored and learned paraphrase, critical notes and useful observations, not by the help of expositors, but by a careful examination of the original Greek, endeavoring thence to gather the true sense and meaning of the writers.

In addition to these more formal preparations and services, he had constantly to watch over the Indians, lest they should relapse into heathenism, to make many pastoral visits, and maintain an extensive correspondence with his particular friends, with the commissioners, and with intelligent and pious persons in this country and in Great Britain, who were disposed to make inquiries concerning the mission, and felt interested in its success. But Mr. Sergeant was not suffered to continue in these various and useful labours by reason of death. On the last week in June, 1749, he was seized with a nervous fever, attended with a cancer and inflammation in the throat, which closed his life on the 27th of the following month, at the age of 39. The religion which he had preached and practised, sustained him in his sickness, and animated him in the moments of dissolution.

He was a native of Newark, N. J. and graduate of Yale College 1729, where he was tutor four years. In stature he was rather small; but possessed a beautiful countenance and a good constitution.

Few persons have been as greatly beloved in life and lamented in death as this servant of God. His talents, natural and acquired, were superior, his temper sweet, his manners engaging, and his piety ardent and persevering. In epistolary writing he greatly excelled. But one of his sermons was printed. That was preached at Springfield, in the audience of the associated pastors of the county of Hampshire, April 4, 1743, on the causes and danger of delusion in the affairs of religion, and published at the request of the hearers.

The effect of his labours upon the Indians was very happy. From 8 or 10 families they had increased to more than 50, during his ministry, had been reclaimed

from many errors and vices, had assumed a stable character as a society, regularly attended public worship, had 20 houses built after the English manner, and paid considerable attention to the cultivation of the earth. In singing they were great proficients. Fifty or sixty who had become hopeful converts were admitted to full communion by him; some of whom died in faith before him: 42 survived him. He baptized 182 natives, adults and infants. His services were also greatly useful to the English who settled here.

He left a widow, who was subsequently married to Brig. Gen. Dwight; and three children, Electa, Erastus, and John. The first was married to Col. Mark Hopkins of Great Barrington; the other two will be mentioned hereafter.

There were 12 English families in town at the time of his death, viz. his own family, the family of Timothy Woodbridge, of Col. Williams, of Josiah Jones and Joseph Woodbridge; of Samuel Brown, of Samuel Brown Jun. and Joshua Chamberlain, son and son-in-law of Samuel Brown, from Spencer, of David Pixley from Westfield, of John Willard from Canaan, previously from Wethersfield, and of John Taylor and Jacob Cooper from West Springfield.

Mr. Hopkins of Great Barrington, afterwards Dr. Hopkins, was first appointed to succeed Mr. Sergeant; but he declined the appointment, among other considerations, in the hope that the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, his theological instructor and particular friend, then recently dismissed from Northampton, would accept the service. He was next appointed, and was installed as pastor of this church, Aug. 8, 1751.

He entered upon the same general course of instruction which his predecessor had pursued, though he was obliged to address the Indians through an interpreter; and the prospect was exceedingly fair for a time of his being exceedingly useful to the Indians in this town, and to the Six Nations, families from which were expected to settle here, and many children to be placed in the boarding school. The second French war blasted this prospect, so far as the Six Nations and their children were concerned. Mr. Edwards, however, discharged his duties with his wonted faithfulness, and to

the good acceptance both of the people and of the commissioners.

Besides the duties owed more immediately to the people, he here completed his greatest work, "The Inquiry concerning the Freedom of the Will." Here also he composed his treatise on Original Sin, and carried forward the "History of Redemption," and probably some other works.

But while he was pursuing his studies and labours in this sequestered spot and calm retreat, he was unexpectedly called, upon the decease of his son-in-law, the Rev. Aaron Burr, Sept. 24, 1757, to accept the presidency of Princeton College. In agreement with the advice of brethren in the ministry, he accepted the appointment, and was dismissed Jan. 4, 1758. But he had scarcely time to arrive at Princeton, to be inducted into office, and enter upon the duties of his new and important station, before he was summoned to eternity. Complaints induced by inoculation for the small pox, then raging in Princeton and vicinity, closed his days on the 22d of March, in the 55th year of his age. But sudden and disastrous to human view as his death was, he submitted to it without a murmur; and entered, there is every reason to believe, into the joys of his Lord.

He was a son of the Rev. Timothy Edwards of East Windsor, Con., and like Mr. Sergeant, both a graduate and tutor of Yale College.

No one has left behind him a fairer fame than Pres. Edwards. No one has done so much to promote orthodoxy and piety in the American churches. The preminent traits of his character, clear intelligence and ardent piety, are those excellencies which will shine forever in the redeemed.

The records of his ministry here are lost. Probably some of the natives and some of the English were brought into the kingdom under his instructions. Twenty-one of the latter were professors at the time of his death.

His wife, who survived him, was a daughter of the Rev. James Pierpont of New Haven. They had 10 children; Sarah, wife of Elihu Parsons of this town; Jerusha, who died unmarried; Esther, wife of Pres.

Burr; Mary, wife of Col. Timothy Dwight of Northampton; Lucy, wife of Hon. Jahleel Woodbridge of this town; Timothy, the late Hon. Timothy Edwards of this town; Susanna, wife of Eleazer Porter, of Hadley; Eunice, wife of Thomas Pollock of North Carolina; Jonathan, late President of Union College; Elizabeth, who died unmarried; Pierpont, late Judge of the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Connecticut.

At the time of the dismission of Pres. Edwards, the Indian families were reduced to 42, while the English families were increased to 18. Besides the families beforementioned, there were the families of Elihu Parsons, his son-in-law, from Northampton, of Stephen Nash, immediately from Westfield, but previously from Hadley, of James Wilson from Spencer, of Josiah Jones, Jun., Thomas Sherman, and Solomon Glezen, the last from Worcester.

Soon after this event, the minds of the people and of the commissioners were drawn towards the late venerable Dr. Stephen West.

Dr. West was the son of Lebbeus West, Esq., of Tolland, Con., and was graduated at Yale College in 1755. After leaving college, he taught a school, and studied theology in Hatfield. He was licensed to preach by the Association of Ministers in Hampshire county, probably in the close of 1757 or the beginning of 1758, soon after which he was appointed chaplain at Fort Massachusetts in Adams. From that place he was introduced to this town in November, in the latter year, and ordained pastor of this church, June 13, 1759.

For several years he communicated instructions as his predecessors had done, both to the Indians and the English inhabitants. His common practice was to preach to the Indians on sabbath morning by an interpreter, and to the English in the afternoon. But as it was very difficult to obtain a suitable interpreter, as the English rapidly increased by the accession of families from different parts of the country, and became capable of supporting the gospel themselves, Dr. West, in 1775, relinquished the instruction of the Indians, and with it the income received from the commissioners, to Mr. John Sergeant, son of the first missionary, who perfectly un-

**REV. DR. STEPHEN WEST,**

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN STOCKBRIDGE.

derstood their language, and who had received a respectable education at Newark, N. J. The Indian professors, however, were not immediately separated from the church. They retained the same relation to the church and people as before; but instead of receiving instruction from Dr. West through an interpreter, they received it directly from Mr. Sergeant in their own language. This state of things continued until their general removal to the township given them by the Oneidas, in 1785, when the professors among them, then 16 in number, were regularly dismissed, formed into a new church, and Mr. Sergeant was ordained their pastor. From this period, Mr. Sergeant regularly spent 6 months with them yearly, until 1796, when he removed his family to New Stockbridge, where he remained in their service until his death, which occurred Sept. 8, 1824, when he was 77 years of age.

The little church still lives among them, and has occasionally received some additions from the world. For a part of the time since their residence at Green Bay, they have enjoyed the labours of a missionary, and have been recently visited in some degree by the gracious influences of the Spirit.

When Dr. West was ordained in this town, there were only four settled ministers within the bounds of the County; the Rev. Jonathan Hubbard of Sheffield, Thomas Strong of New Marlborough, Adonijah Bidwell of Tyringham, and Samuel Hopkins of Great Barrington. Mr. Hopkins, afterwards Dr. Hopkins, was the nearest, and with him Dr. West contracted an early, intimate, and as the result shows, a very happy friendship. The structure of their minds was somewhat similar. Both were fond of discussion and research. Dr. West was dissatisfied with what his predecessor, "Pres. Edwards, had written on the freedom of the will, and on many points relative to the distinguishing doctrines of grace." These became the topics of free and repeated conversation; and the effect was, (like the effect of the communications between the Rev. John Newton and Dr. Scott, though the mode was different,) that Dr. West gave up his hope of a personal interest in Christ, which he had long entertained, and which he had professed before men, and was convinced, that while he

had undertaken the charge of souls, his own soul had been neglected. His conviction of sin was deep and pungent, and his solicitude was strong, and at times almost overwhelming. But the Lord was pleased soon to relieve him, to make him the subject of new views and affections, and to give him *a good hope through grace.* The reality and greatness of this change readily appeared in the solemnity, fervency and pungency of his preaching, and in the humility and goodness of his life.

Soon after this change, Dr. West preached a series of discourses, in which he dwelt extensively upon the character and government of God, and upon the dependence and accountability of man, the substance of which he published in 1772, in a work entitled "An Essay on Moral Agency." The fame produced by this essay, led many young men, designed for the holy ministry, as no public theological seminary then existed in our country, to repair to him for instruction and assistance in the study of divinity. A succession of students from some or other of the New England colleges were under his care for the space of thirty-five or forty years. These he boarded in his own family, where they had the benefit of his daily conversation and example, as well as his more formal instructions.

In preaching, he dwelt principally upon the doctrines of grace, the richness and excellence of which he had experienced in his own soul, and which he deemed all-important to the good of the souls of others. He was much in the habit of giving instructions in an expository form. During his ministry, he passed three times through the New Testament, expounding the sacred oracles verse by verse, "with a propriety, acuteness, and vigour," says a certain writer well acquainted with him, and a very competent judge on the subject, "of which this country has seen no parallel."

In 1792, the trustees of Dartmouth College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor in Divinity.

The year following, when the charter for Williams College was granted, he was named as one of the trustees, and upon the first meeting of the Board, was elected Vice-President; which offices he held nineteen years; until age and infirmity compelled him to resign.

In 1810, such were his infirmities, that it was deemed

important he should have the assistance of a colleague; and the Rev. Ephraim G. Swift, son of the Rev. Seth Swift of Williamstown, and graduate of Williams College, was associated with him in that capacity, on the 26th of Sept. in that year; after which the duties of the ministry were discharged by them jointly. Things passed along in this manner for some time to their mutual satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of the people. The Lord also blessed their labours. But difficulties at length occurred in the church, which rendered it necessary that the colleague should be dismissed; and with a view to quiet the party feelings which then existed, Dr. West agreed to be dismissed also. Accordingly both were dismissed on the 27th of August, 1818.

After his dismission, Dr. West was rarely able to appear in public. On the first sabbath in November and January following, he administered the Lord's supper to the church, and on the 10th of Feb. attended a funeral. After this he was confined to his house, and generally to his bed; grew weaker and weaker in body and mind, until Saturday the 13th of May, 1819, when he expired, in the 84th year of his age. His funeral was attended the Monday following, at which a sermon was preached by the Rev. Jacob Catlin, D. D., from Zech. 1, 5.

Dr. West was twice married. His first wife was Miss Elizabeth Williams, daughter of Col. Ephraim Williams. She died Sept. 15, 1804, in the 74th year of her age. His second wife was Miss Eleanor Dewey, daughter of Mr. Daniel Dewey of Sheffield. She died in her native town, March 14, 1827, aged 73. Both these women were distinguished for good sense, and both professed and apparently enjoyed the religion of the gospel.

The courtesy and politeness of Dr. West, the effect of his good sense, his piety, and acquaintance with the world, were universally acknowledged and admired. All were made easy in his presence, while filled with respect and love.

His mind, originally superior, was well disciplined, and greatly improved by science. At college, he had the reputation of a sound classical scholar. In the earlier periods of his ministry, enjoying good health, and having but a small family, he applied himself intensely

to study; and indeed through life was distinguished for industry and application. Hence he acquired a fund of knowledge. He had some acquaintance with the Hebrew of the Old Testament, and was conversant with the version of the Seventy. He was a good critic in the Greek of the New Testament, and read the Latin language with great facility. Other branches of knowledge were pursued, which were directly connected with his profession.

His acquisitions of knowledge and improvements as a divine, were greatly promoted by the exactness and punctuality with which he prosecuted duty, doing every thing methodically. One branch of service was never suffered to intrude upon another. All was anticipated and arranged, and his mind kept clear, and fit for vigorous and successful effort. He always kept several sermons written on hand, that he might not be driven to prepare for the sabbath at the close of the week. Fast and thanksgiving sermons were prepared weeks before they were used.

Though his passions were naturally quick and strong, they were kept under steady subjection. He possessed his soul in patience. Scarcely any thing ever ruffled his mind, or caused him to utter a rash or imprudent word. At the same time, tender emotions were very readily excited, upon the occurrence of any thing interesting among his own people or in the Redeemer's kingdom. In reading the Scriptures, in prayer, especially when the Saviour was brought directly into view, he was often affected, even to weeping.

As a christian, Dr. West was certainly eminent. All the graces shone in him, and some with distinguished lustre. His humility was continually noticed. The fact that he had once deceived himself, and entered the ministry without piety of heart, and his deep convictions, made impressions that were never forgotten. He seemed to count himself less than the least of all saints, because he had thus offended. Another trait to which this gave rise, was his marked and strong reliance on the merits of Christ for forgiveness and salvation; a reliance which was conspicuous in all his conversation, preaching and conduct; especially in his prayers, offered up through his death and intercession.

He had stated seasons for private communion with God. In the morning, after dressing and washing, he used to go to his closet almost as steadily as the sun arose. His season for private devotion in the evening, was a little after eight, when he used to retire, even if company were at his house, though he did it in such a manner that the reason of his withdrawing was not perceived by strangers.

In keeping the sabbath he was very strict. Having all his concerns previously adjusted, that his mind might not be disturbed on this sacred day, he was wont when the sun went down on Saturday, to give himself to prayer for the blessing of God upon his own soul, upon his church and people, and upon the world. The day, except so far it was taken up in family and public devotions, was spent in reading, meditation, and secret communion with God.

Though Dr. West read the Scriptures much, probably from early life, he gave them a more thorough examination after his conversion. Now in the prime of life, all the powers of a vigorous and cultivated mind, and of a renewed heart, were brought to an investigation of the truth as it lies on the inspired pages. The practice of giving expository lectures on the sabbath, the superintendence of a theological class of young men, and another of young women, together with the instruction of students in divinity, living in his family and permitted to ask him questions at any time on subjects of doctrine and practice, conspired also to make him thus earnestly and habitually attentive to the sacred volume. Hence he became mighty in the Scriptures; and was able beyond almost any other man to unfold the meaning of the Holy Ghost. For many of the last years of his life, he read the Bible more than all other books united. These he read in course in private, as well as in the family.

The traits and habits which I have now mentioned, gave a heavenly cast to his conversation and conduct in his family, and to his visits among his friends and among his people. The things of this world were little regarded, and a savour of divine goodness and wisdom continually attended him,

It is hardly possible that the preaching of such a man should not have been excellent. This excellence, however, did not consist so much in the graces of style, as in lucid and forcible exhibitions of truth, applied to the conscience and heart. He was logical generally, rather than rhetorical; though sometimes in his expository and extemporaneous performances, when warmed with the subject, he became highly eloquent.

As an instructor in theology, his attention was confined pretty much to what is deemed Didactic Theology. A system of questions was given out on the great doctrines and duties of religion; on which the students read, reflected, and wrote. On their compositions, when read before him, he remarked, pointing out their excellences and defects. He said comparatively little to them concerning biblical criticism, philology, and some other subjects, which are important to theological students, especially at the present day. His great object was to make them thoroughly acquainted with the system of doctrines revealed in the Bible; an object which his own preaching and conversation contributed not a little to promote. Many of them have been distinguished in the churches; among whom may be mentioned the late Dr. Spring of Newburyport, and the late Dr. Catlin of New Marlborough.

As a writer, Dr. West ranks high among the writers of his day. His Essay on Moral Agency, first published in 1772, and republished with an Appendix in 1794, is a proof of very respectable talents and diligent research, and sufficient alone to establish his reputation as a metaphysician. His treatise on the Atonement, published in 1785, which has also passed through a second edition, has been highly approved by the most competent judges. Besides these larger works, he published in 1779, a sermon on the duty and obligation of christians to marry only in the Lord; in 1780, a vindication of the principles and conduct of the church in Stockbridge, in *excluding from their communion* one of their members for marrying a person *immoral* and *profane;* about 1785 or 90, a sermon on the impotency of sinners; a sermon preached in Lenox, Dec. 6, 1787, at the execution of John Bly and Charles Rose for *burglary;* a sermon preached at Windsor at the ordina-

tion of the Rev. Gordon Dorrance, July 1, 1795; an inquiry into the ground and import of infant baptism, published about 1795; two sermons in a volume collected, published in 1797; a dissertation on infant baptism, in reply to the Rev. Cyprian Strong's second inquiry on that subject, published in 1798; a fast sermon, preached April 9, 1801; a sermon preached in New Hartford, Con., at the ordination of the Rev. Amasa Jerome, Aug. 18, 1802; a sermon preached in Stockbridge, on the duty of praying for ministers, Dec. 12, 1802; Sketches of the Life of the Rev. Samuel Hopkins, D. D., published in 1805; a sermon preached at the ordination of the Rev. Elijah Wheeler, in Great Barrington, Sept. 24, 1806; a sermon preached in Dalton, March 4, 1808, at the funeral of the Hon. William Williams; three sermons on the Mosaic account of the creation, published in 1809; a sermon preached at the ordination of his colleague, Rev. Ephraim G. Swift, Sept. 26, 1810; and an essay on the evidence of the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, composed when he was 80 years of age, published in 1816. He was also the author of many essays in the Theological Magazine, published in New York; and in the Connecticut Evangelical Magazine, published in Hartford. His writings are honorable to his understanding and heart, and have been well received by the friends of the doctrines of grace.

But the greatest excellence of Dr. West yet remains to be noticed: he was wise to win souls to Christ. His preaching, soon after his conversion, was with power. A revival occurred in the year 1773. The members of the church were improved in wisdom and grace, and some from the world were converted.

In 1782, there was a greater number of converts in a revival which then existed; though the solemnity was not so general in the congregation.

In 1790, 91 and 2, in a protracted revival, in which not more than seven or eight were the subjects of special impression at once, there were a still greater number of converts.

In 1799 some conversions occurred.

By the first of these revivals 16, by the second 24, by the third 46, and by the fourth 20 persons were brought into the communion of the church.

But the most extensive and powerful revival which occurred in Dr. West's day, was in 1813, during the period in which he had the assistance of a colleague. There had been more than ordinary attention to the concerns of religion for two or three years previous, and some conversions. On the first sabbath in January, 13 made a profession of Christianity; the sight of whom, thus solemnly giving themselves to God, greatly affected the minds of others. Many were soon convicted, and some rejoiced in hope. During the revival, more than one hundred were considered as born into the kingdom of God; 67 of whom made a profession on the last sabbath in June, 14 others made a profession in the course of that year, and some afterwards.

Besides these seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, individuals from time to time experienced divine grace.

During his whole ministry, 334 persons were admitted to the church from the world, (22 of whom were Indians,) and 120 by recommendation from other churches; 504 in all. Nine hundred were baptized, 115 adults and 785 infants; of whom 62 were Indians, 13 adults and 49 infants.

It was impossible that such a man should not have been considerably known. Peculiar circumstances also served to elicit and display his talents and graces. Settling in Stockbridge while some of the southern, most of the middle, and all the northern parts of Berkshire were a wilderness, he had an extended opportunity for influencing the views, and shaping the habits of the new settlers, who flocked into the County in the early part of his ministry from every quarter. He assisted in the formation of many of the churches, and had an important agency in introducing the orthodox confessions of faith with which these churches are now blessed. He helped to ordain the pastors of these churches, many of whom had been his pupils. He was often called upon in councils for settling difficulties, and was for many years standing moderator of the Berkshire Association. In *all his services* he displayed ability, acquitted himself

with honour, and enjoyed pre-eminently the esteem and confidence of his brethren and of the community.

Among his more particular friends and correspondents were Dr. Bellamy, Dr. Hopkins, Dr. Edwards, and the Rev. John Ryland, of Bristol, in England.

On the 25th of January, 1819, Dea. Stephen James and 18 others were dismissed from this church, with a view of being formed into a new church at Brownhelm, in the State of Ohio, whither a number of families had moved from this place and formed a settlement.

On the 25th of August, in the same year, the Rev. David D. Field was installed over this people as pastor. The Lord visited the congregation in great mercy, in 1821, and again in the beginning of 1827. By the former revival 94 were received into the church as fruits, and by the latter 55. The whole number admitted by the present pastor is 186. The number of members at the commencement of the present year was 219.

The following persons have been deacons in the church, viz. Timothy Woodbridge, Peter Pauquaunaupeet, Samuel Brown, Elnathan Curtis, Stephen Nash, Elisha Bradley, Timothy Edwards, Erastus Sergeant, Eben. Plumb, Eben. Cook, Stephen James, Jona. Ingersoll, John Whiton, Alfred Perry, and Josiah Jones.

The erection of the first meeting-house has been already mentioned. A larger house, to accommodate the increasing population, was built ¾ths of a mile north, in 1784, and dedicated in November of that year.

The discovery of Indian bones when the foundation of this house was prepared, gives some confirmation to the opinion that the Indian battle, described on page 15th of this work, was fought near this spot. In the close of 1823, a third house was proposed to be built, and it was determined by the society to place it on the level and beautiful ground by the grave-yard, near the site of the first house. This was built of brick, 70 feet by 50, in 1824, and dedicated on the 20th of Jan. 1825. The location was dissatisfactory to a portion of the people, and about a fourth part of the society withdrew, and set up a separate meeting; and on the 22d of December, 1824, a new church, styled the North Congregational church of Stockbridge, was organized, consisting of 63 members, taken from the original church.

The Rev. Nathan Shaw, who had been settled in West Stockbridge, was installed their pastor, January 10, 1827, and has admitted 27 to the communion. The number of members on the 1st of Jan. last was 84. Daniel Fairchild and David Curtis are deacons in this church. The society built a brick meeting-house in 1826, 61 feet by 40, which was dedicated when the pastor was installed.

The great body of the people have ever been Congregationalists; though there are some Episcopal, some Baptist and Methodist families, who go out of town for their own worship.

The town was generally settled by the English, who bought out the Indian rights one after another, before the Indians emigrated to Oneida. Families by the name of Ball, Hamilton, Cadwell, and Lynch, were in the west part of the town; of Curtis and Churchell in the north part, and of Bradley and Williams in the East street, at an early period; together with other families which have now no descendants remaining in the place, of their names.

For nearly half a century, the population has been about 1350. It may now be 1500. For 19 years from the 1st of January last, the deaths were 399, averaging 21 in a year.

There is but one cemetery now used. This is opposite the south meeting-house; and is interesting on account of the numerous white marble monuments of different forms placed in it; and more so, on account of the pious and venerable dead, who are there resting in hope. The Indians buried in the south-west corner of this yard, and on a sandy knoll about 30 rods west.

By the separation of West Stockbridge in 1774, the breadth of the town was reduced to 3 ¼ miles and its contents to 13,440 acres. By the annexation of a small tract to that town from the north-west corner the present year, the breadth is further reduced for a short distance. The number of acres now is 12,510. With that town on the west, this place is bounded by Richmond and Lenox on the north, by Lenox and Lee on the east, and Great Barrington on the south.

Stockbridge mountain, along the west border of the town, is in some places of steep, and in others of gentle *declivity*. It is broken down in two or three instances so

as to admit of favorable passages for roads, particularly where the Housatonic turnpike is laid.

At the south is Monument mountain. Rumors are now abroad, that in the region of this mountain a coal mine [anthracite] exists. Some small specimens have been found; and it is hoped that search will continue to be made until it is ascertained whether there is a bed of any importance.

In the south-east corner the Beartown mountains rise. On the height of the north-west spur of these mountains is a very narrow and deep ravine, perhaps a quarter of a mile long, where the rocks of every size and form are thrown together in the wildest confusion. This is called the "Ice Hole," from the fact that ice remains in this chaos through the year.

On the east side of the town, and wholly within its limits, is Rattlesnake mountain, about two miles in length, and capable of cultivation in most places to nearly its summit. This is one of the very few single mountain elevations in New England.

The Housatonic enters the town from Lee, along the northern base of the Beartown mountains, and takes first a western, then a northern, then again a western, and then a southern direction, passing round Monument mountain into Great Barrington. Its windings are many, and extensive meadows lie on its borders.

This receives Konkapot brook, a sluggish stream, from the south, and Barnum's brook, Great-pond brook, and Mohawk brook, from the north.

Barnum's brook flows from a pond and marsh to the south of Rattlesnake mountain. On this a small corn mill was built soon after the town was settled. It now supplies a tobacco factory, an oil-mill and saw-mill.

The corn mill just mentioned, being insufficient for the inhabitants, another was soon erected on the Housatonic, back from the dwelling-house of Mr. Flavius Pease. Though this mill-site has long been unoccupied, it is said that the water might be taken out there in a canal, and conveyed along the southern side of the village, and machinery established to a great extent.

A grist and saw-mill were built on the Housatonic at "Mill Hollow," a little more than a mile west of the village, about 1781; where the water privileges are very great. Buildings, erected for a woollen factory in 1813 or

14, have recently been purchased by Lester, Avery & Co. who are repairing them, with a view to a cotton factory; for which 16 carding machines, 944 spindles and 28 power looms are now preparing. Here are also a grist-mill and a saw-mill. Between this spot and Great Barrington line, are also important water privileges; near which a road has just been opened.

Half a mile up the stream, a cotton factory, now belonging to the same firm, was established in 1815, and repaired in 1825. This is supplied with water from a side dam, and has 17 carding machines, 976 spindles, and 24 power looms, and employs 42 hands, who manufacture cotton sheeting, yard wide, No. 16, at the rate of 150,000 yards annually.

Great pond lies in the north part of the town, in the hollow between Rattlesnake and Stockbridge mountains. It is about a mile in length, and from half a mile to a mile in breadth. Besides being fed by subjacent springs, it receives two or three brooks, which are sufficient to work saw-mills a part of the year: on which are two in this place. On the outlet, which runs about two miles, are valuable mill-sites. A grist-mill was erected upon it about 1782. There are now a grist-mill and saw-mill, a distillery, built in 1812; Curtis & Bacon's woollen factory, built in 1813, employing 18 hands, and manufacturing 40,000 yards of flannel in a year; a clothier's works; Olmsted & Sage's woollen factory, employing about 16 hands, and manufacturing annually about 14,000 yards of satinet; Churchell & Co.'s chair factory, built in 1822, (burnt in July, 1827, and immediately rebuilt,) employing 30 hands, and making about 8,000 chairs a year; and a trip-hammer shop, built in 1807; all which, excepting the shop, are within half a mile of each other, and within a mile of the pond. The outlet, on its way to the shop, receives the waters of Curtis pond, a small pond to the west.

Mohawk pond is in an opening in Stockbridge mountain to the south, the outlet of which turns a saw-mill.

With the exception of the rough lands on the mountains, (which by the way afford considerable wood and timber,) the soil is very good, and generally easy of cultivation, adapted to all the varieties of crops raised in this region. The meadows on the Housatonic, the lands on the "Hill," and to the south-east of Rattlesnake

mountain, and some tracts in the north part of the town, are remarkably excellent. Fine crops of winter, as well as summer wheat, are sometimes raised.

Clay is found in various places in sufficient quantities for making brick. Limestone and marble exist. The former is occasionally burnt in several kilns. The marble beds can hardly be said to be opened.

The scenery of the town has been much admired by strangers. The country opens delightfully as it is approached on the Great Barrington road, along the side of Monument mountain. The view of the town, as it is approached on the West Stockbridge road, and from various other points, is interesting. But the finest view is from the "Hill." Here you have the village directly under the eye, and the meanders and meadows of the Housatonic, while the Beartown, Monument, and Stockbridge mountains rise at a little distance.

The village is beautifully situated on the Plain, a tract of level land, between the "Hill" and the Housatonic, moderately elevated above the river. Here are a meeting-house, academy, the Housatonic bank, a tavern, post-office, 4 merchant stores, various mechanic shops, and 45 houses, inhabited by 55 families. Most of the buildings are on a single street running east and west, broad, and lined on each side with trees. Many of the houses are handsomely painted and prettily enclosed. The bank was incorporated in 1825, and has a capital of $100,000. A printing office was opened in 1788, which issued a weekly paper until 1828; when the paper was removed to Lenox. The great road from Boston to Albany by Springfield, passes directly through the village, crossed by the principal north and south county road. By stages and otherways, intercourse is perpetually kept up with different parts of the country.

There are in the town 6 merchant stores, 207 dwelling-houses and 239 families.

A good degree of attention has been paid to education, and a considerable number have gone into the learned professions. Besides the academy just mentioned, there is in the village a select female school, and the private school of the Rev. Noah Sheldon. Towards supporting 7 district schools, 2 of which are in the village, the town annually raises about $600.

A public library which had existed several years, was sold in 1822. A juvenile library was formed in 1826, and contains about 160 volumes. A library established in the north part of the town in 1814, has 137.

Several individuals distinguished in civil life and in the professions of physic and law, must be briefly noticed.

Timothy Woodbridge, the Indian school-master, and for a long time agent and superintendent of Indian affairs, was a man of superior abilities and acquisitions. He was the first deacon in the church, and the first magistrate in the town; he was also, according to tradition, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Hampshire county, before this County was formed, and afterwards he was a judge of this court in Berkshire. Near the time of his death, he was appointed a member of the Governor's council by *mandamus* from the king; but did not accept the appointment. He died May 11, 1774, aged 65. His son Enoch, a lawyer in Vermont, was first an associate and then chief judge of the Supreme Court in that State.

Col. Ephraim Williams was a man of great respectability; and served some time as a judge of the Common Pleas in Hampshire county. He died at Deerfield; but at what time is not known. He was twice married. By his first wife he had two children, Ephraim and Thomas; and by his second seven, viz. Abigail, Josiah, Lizza, Judith, Elizabeth, Elijah, and Enoch. Ephraim was the founder of Williams College, Thomas was a distinguished physician in Deerfield, Abigail was first the wife of the Rev. John Sergeant, and after his death, of Gen. Joseph Dwight; Elizabeth was the first wife of Dr. West, Judith was the wife of the Rev. Enoch Thair of Ware, and Elijah was the late Col. Williams, for many years sheriff of the County.

Jahleel Woodbridge, only son of Joseph Woodbridge, graduate of Princeton College 1761, besides discharging the duties of many town offices, was repeatedly a member of the Legislature in both branches, associate and presiding judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and judge of probate. He died Aug. 13, 1796, aged 58, having been esteemed for his good sense, integrity and piety.

Timothy Edwards, eldest son of Pres. Edwards, graduate of Princeton College 1757, and for some time

a merchant in Elizabethtown N. J., came here about 1770, and opened the first store in 1772. From 1775 until 1780, a period of great difficulty, he was a member of the State Council; and afterwards judge of Probate. In 1779 he was appointed a member of Congress. This appointment he declined. He was a man of extensive information; a venerated member and officer of the church. He died in Oct. 1813, at the age of 75.

John Bacon, native of Canterbury, Con. graduate of Princeton College 1765, having preached some time to two vacant churches in Somerset Co., Md., was settled over the old South Church in Boston from Sept. 25, 1771 until 1775. Soon after, he came to this town, and entered upon civil life, though he occasionally preached; became a justice of the peace, a representative to the legislature, associate and presiding judge of the Common Pleas, a member and president of the State Senate, and a member of Congress. He had a strong mind, was fond of debate, and tenacious of his opinions; but decided in prosecuting what he deemed his duty. He died Oct. 25, 1820, aged 82.

Henry Williams Dwight, son of Gen. J. Dwight, a magistrate in the town, and for 22 years clerk of the Judicial Courts in the county, was a man of good sense, amiable in his temper, and regular in his morals. Notwithstanding these things, however, he was led to depend on the *grace of God alone* for salvation. He died upon his birthday, Sept. 15, 1804, aged 47.

Erastus Sergeant, studied physic with his uncle Williams at Deerfield, and commenced practice in 1768. He was extensively employed and very highly esteemed; a *beloved physician*, endowed with sound judgment, skill in his profession, and an eminent share of the christian graces. More than 20 young men were fitted for practice under his instructions. He was also a deacon in the church, and a magistrate in the town. He died suddenly, Nov. 14, 1814, aged 72.

Oliver Partridge, Richard Tidmash [an Englishman,] Horatio Jones, Royal Fowler and Alfred Parry, have also been physicians in the town. Dr. Tidmash removed to Philadelphia. Dr. Jones died greatly lamented, April 26, 1813, aged 42. A little time before he had hopefully become a subject of grace. The other three persons named are now in practice.

The following is a list of the lawyers, viz. Tho. Williams, Theo. Sedgwick, Eph. Williams, Barnabas Bidwell, Joseph Woodbridge, Tho. Williams (son of preceding) John Hunt, Henry D. Sedgwick, Saml. Jones, Aug. Sherrell, Jas. Pepoon, Henry W. Dwight, Chas. Sedgwick, Geo. Whitney, Lawson D. Bidwell, Horatio Byington, and Theo. S. Pomeroy.

Thomas Williams, son of Dr. Williams of Deerfield, student of Col. Hopkins, commenced practice in 1770 or 71, with the prospect of eminence. In 1775 he went to Cambridge at the head of a company of minute men, where he volunteered to follow Col. Arnold up Kennebec river to Quebec. His station was in the division commanded by Col. Enos, which returned, after proceeding up the Kennebec as far as the mouth of Dead river, in consequence of the absolute impossibility of procuring provisions for the troops. The next year, being made lieut. colonel, he was ordered to Canada by a different route. On his way, he fell sick and died at Skenesborough, now Whitehall, July 10, 1776, aged 30.

Theodore Sedgwick was born in Hartford, (W. D.) and educated at Yale College. Having read law with Col. Hopkins, he commenced practice in Great Barrington in 1776; in which year he went into Canada as aid to Gen. Thomas. He afterwards removed to Sheffield, and repeatedly represented that town in the Legislature. Soon after the adoption of the State Constitution, he was one of a council, who procured a decision, giving a construction to that instrument, which abolished slavery in Massachusetts. In 1785 he removed to this town, and was that year, and the succeeding, a member of Congress under the Confederation. In the winter of 1787, he strenuously opposed the Shays rebellion. In 1788, he was a leading advocate for the adoption of the Constitution of the United States in the State Convention, and also a member of the Legislature, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. From 1789 until his death, he was, with scarcely any interruption, either a representative or a senator in Congress, or a judge of the Supreme Court of this State. He also guided the studies of many law students. Thus active, honored and esteemed, he died at Boston, Jan. 24, 1813, aged 66.

The excellent character and public services of the late Joseph Woodbridge, are well known.

THEODORE SEDGWICK L.L.D.
*Judge of Supreme Court, Mass.*

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE,

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

---

This town originally belonged to the Stockbridge Indians, and was sold by them in parcels, larger and smaller, to individual purchasers. At the time of its separation from Stockbridge and incorporation as a town in 1774, it was 6 miles long and 2½ broad, containing 9600 acres. A small gore of land, which fell into this State upon the establishment of the boundary line with New York, was annexed to it on the west in 1793; and in the beginning of the present year 930 acres were added to the north-east corner from Stockbridge, so that the number of acres now is between 11 and 12,000. The town is bounded on the north by Richmond, on the east by Stockbridge, on the south by Great Barrington and Alford, and on the west by Alford and the State of New York. It derives its name from its relation to Stockbridge. Before its incorporation, it was called Queensborough.

The first settler was Joseph Bryant, from Canaan, Con., who settled in 1766 near the north-west corner. Col. Elijah Williams from Stockbridge, in the latter part of the same year, settled at the place called from him "Williams' Iron Works," but now known by the name of West Stockbridge Village, having purchased a large tract of land in that section of the town. Between this time and 1774, about 40 families settled in the town; among whom were the families of Increase Hewins, from Sturbridge; of Elisha Hooper, from Bridgewater; of Lemuel Burghardt and Christopher Brazee, from

Egrement; of John Minkler, from Taconic [now Mt. Washington]; of Ichabod Miller, from Symsbury; of Samuel Mudge and Elijah Slosson, from Sharon; of Josiah Arnold, from East Haddam; of John Deming, (immediately from Fort Edward, but previously) from Canaan; of Matthew Benedict, from Ridgefield; of Roderic Messenger and Benjamin Lewis, from Farmington, Con. These were soon joined by John Ford and Ambrose Collins, from Farmington, and Amasa and James Spencer, from East Haddam, Con.; by Samuel Boynton, from Grafton, and by some others. In 1791, when the first census was taken, the number of inhabitants was 1113. It probably does not vary much from this at the present time.

The early settlers generally planted themselves down in the north part of the town, where the lands are the most feasible and productive; about the branches of Williams river and Maple hill.

A collection of rugged hills occupy the centre of the town. Near the south-west corner is a mountain called "Tom Bull," extending into Great Barrington and Alford; while Stockbridge mountain is on the eastern border. The mountain elevations vary in height, it is said, from 5 to 900 feet above the level of Williams river. The southern and south-eastern parts consist generally of rough, broken land. Lime ledges abound.

With the exception of a brook at the south-west, which runs into Alford, supplying a stone mill and saw-mill, Williams river is the common channel of nearly all the waters of the town. One branch of this rises in the west part of the town, and in the edge of New York, runs northerly towards the north-west corner, where it unites with Flat brook, which comes in from Canaan, and then turns eastward, and on its way to the village receives Griffin's brook and Cone's brook from Richmond, and the outlets of two or three natural ponds, one of which is of considerable size. On the first branch and Cone's brook are 1 saw-mill, 4 stone mills, and 2 turning shops. At the village, after the union of all the branches, there is an excellent mill-site, where from a single dam water is taken to supply a grist-mill, a stone-mill, a saw-mill and turning shop. A few rods below is another dam, which supplies a woollen factory and another stone-mill. *Two and* a half miles south are Crocker's mills, a saw-mill,

a grist-mill, a stone-mill, and a tannery. Between these and Great Barrington line, are 2 saw-mills, 3 stone-mills, a fulling-mill and turning-shop, a forge, a nail factory and a rolling mill. The forge has been in existence 30 or 40 years, the nail factory 10; the rolling mill is just completed. The stone-mills above mentioned are employed in sawing the marble, with which this town abounds.

The first quarry opened, was that, now denominated the "Old Quarry," on the west bank of Williams river, about midway of the town. This was not wrought in a systematic and profitable manner until about 1790; since which, quarries have been opened in almost all parts of the town. On the opposite side of the same ledge is Robbins' quarry, and to the north Spencer's quarry, and several other of less note. Near the village are the Boyntons', Morgan & Kellogg's, and Cone's quarries; near the meeting-house, Jones' quarry and Hinman's quarry, and to the south, Milligan's, John's and Fitch's quarries.

From Boynton's quarry many of the stone were taked for the State House in Boston. The City Hall in New York is built with stone taken partly from Milligan's, then Johnson's quarry; but generally from that of Mr. Fitch.

To remove the rocks from their beds, deep blasting has been lately practised with great effect, both by boring and by using the natural openings. In 1828, the Messrs. Boyntons charged an opening about 15 feet deep and from about 18 to 4 inches in diameter, with 204 pounds of powder. Upon firing it, a mass of marble was raised about 50 or 60 feet square on the surface, and 8 feet thick. It has since been ascertained that at least twice this quantity was loosened.

The number of hands employed in all the business connected with the quarries may be 200. The exports from the town in 1827, consisting mostly of marble, were estimated at 2700 tons.

It varies in colour as well as fineness. Some of it is white and little inferior in purity to snow, some is parti-colored mostly with blue, some is dove-colored, some is gray, and some is black.

For 30 years iron ore has been occasionally picked up on several farms in the northwest part of the town.

In 1826 a bed was opened on the farm of Dea. Nathl. Leet, from which in that year and the two following, more than 800 tons of ore were taken. It is excellent for castings, but not much used for bar iron. Iron ore probably abounds. Lead ore exists, but in what quantity is not ascertained.

Col. Williams opened a store at the village in 1773, where there are now 3 merchant stores, a post office, tavern, about 32 dwelling houses and several mechanic shops. A building for the double purpose of a meeting-house and school-house, was built in 1828. Stages from Springfield and Hartford meet here on their way to Albany. In the whole town there are 6 stores, 4 taverns, 2 post offices, 6 school-houses, 175 dwelling-houses, and 194 families; of which 100 belong to the Congregationalists, 70 to the Baptists, 8 to the Episcopalians, 8 to the Methodists, and 8 to other denominations.

The Congregational meeting-house was built in 1788, and thoroughly repaired, or rather rebuilt, in 1823.

The church was organized June 4, 1789, and has had five pastors, viz. Rev. Messrs. Oliver Ayres, Joseph Edwards, John Waters, Nathan Shaw, and Munson C. Gaylord, who is the present pastor.

In several instances the people have been blessed with revivals, especially in 1821, and in the winter and spring of 1827. The whole number of members in the church from the beginning to the 1st of Jan. last, was 239. The number at that time was 95.

The church holds in connection with the society $500, a bequest from Mr. W. Crocker, who died April 6, 1826. The Baptist church was organized about 1792, and the society incorporated and a meeting-house built in 1794. For several years the Rev. Saml. Whelpley from Stockbridge preached to them. After leaving this place he went to Morristown, N. J. where he became a presbyterian, thence to Newark, and thence to the city of New York, where he died July 15, 1817, aged 51.

"He possessed an original and highly gifted mind, and displayed uncommon powers as a writer." He was author of "The Triangle," of "Letters on capital punishment and war," of a "Compend of Ancient and Modern History," and "Lectures on Ancient History."

Elder Nathl. Culver, preached to the Baptists some *years*. The church members in 1828, were 42.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF TYRINGHAM.

BY EDWIN BREWER, A. M.

---

THE history of this town, and indeed of all the towns in the south-eastern part of the County, may be traced to the commencement of the year 1735, when it became an object to cut a road across the Green mountain range between Westfield and Sheffield, and thus open a direct communication between Boston and Albany. On the 15th of January, in that year, the committee of both houses of the Legislature on the petitions for townships, &c., reported: "That there be four townships opened upon the road betwixt Westfield and Sheffield, and that they be contiguous to one another, and either join to Sheffield, or to the township lately granted to the proprietors of Suffield," [afterwards Glasgow, now Blanford,] "each of the contents of six miles square; and that there be 63 home lots laid out in a compact and defensible form, in each township, one of which to be for the first settled minister, one for the second settled minister, one for schools, and one for each grantee, which shall draw equal shares in all future divisions; that the grantees be such petitioners as have not been grantees and settlers for the seven years next preceding, and give security to the value of £40 each for a performance of the usual conditions; and that a joint committee of five be appointed for this purpose." The report was accepted, and a committee appointed the next day, consisting of the Hon. Ebenezer Burril and Edmund Quincy, of the Upper House, and John Ashley, Esq., Capt. Stephen Skiffe, and John Fisher, Esq., of the

Assembly. The townships were Tyringham, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, and Becket, numbered at first 1, 2, 3, and 4, in the order in which they have now been named. They were sometimes called the "Housatonic townships," or the "townships at Housatonic," from their vicinity to the Housatonic river.

Not long after the passage of the above acts, Colonels Ephraim Williams and Nahum Ward, in behalf of the petitioners, purchased of the Stockbridge Indians their right to the eastern section of this County, comprising not only the townships contemplated, but the three tracts, it is understood, formerly known by the names of the "North and South Eleven Thousand Acres, and Tyringham Equivalent." The South Eleven Thousand Acres was afterwards called Southfield; and a few years since was annexed to the town of Sandisfield. The North Eleven Thousand Acres was called Bethlehem; and Tyringham Equivalent was called Loudon. Bethlehem and Loudon now constitute the town of Otis.

In consequence of this increase of territory, it was concluded by the Legislature to increase the proprietors in each township to 67, and to fix the rights at 70. The North and South Eleven Thousand Acres were eventually divided equally among the four towns. Tyringham Equivalent, as the name suggests, was given, principally, at least, to this town, in consideration of certain losses which it sustained. Twenty-one acres were given, in the first place, in consideration of the ponds which fell within its limits, and two grants previously made to individuals, one called Price's grant, containing 600 acres, and another called Laughton's or Ashley's grant, containing 200; which latter grant, however, lay partly in New Marlborough. Four thousand acres more were given, June 24, 1737, in consideration of the loss of the north-west corner of the town, by the survey of the upper Housatonic township in October, the year preceding. As this tract included Twenty-five-mile pond, now Great pond, covering by estimation 800 acres, the tract was extended so as to include 4800 acres.

It is not known exactly at what time the surveys of the towns were made. Col. John Ashley, of Sheffield, and William Chandler, were engaged in a part, if not

the whole of them; and the plot and minutes on the town books of Tyringham, are from a survey by Chandler in 1736. The west line was to have been run north so as to strike the south bank of the Housatonic, after it makes the great bend to the west in Lee. But in consequence of the loss just mentioned, it stops a mile and an half or two miles short of that point.

This town was divided into 21 portions by lines running from north-west to south-east, half a mile from each other, from the south-west to the north-east corner. House lots, from 40 to 80 acres each, were laid out on the six portions next to the six south-western, contiguous to each other, abutting on the lines crossing the township. House lot, No. 25, was set apart for the first clergyman, No. 21 for the second, No. 20 for schools, and 67 were drawn by lot against the names of the proprietors. Four of the proprietors were clergymen, and drew the following lots, viz. Rev. William Williams, of Weston, No. 38, since occupied by Daniel Garfield; Rev. John Cotton, of Boston, No. 1, on which the first and second churches were built; Rev. Warham Williams, of Waltham, No. 70, now occupied by Jonas Brewer, and Rev. Jonathan Townsend, of Needham, No. 53, now occupied by his descendants. The drawing began Nov. 15, 1737, and was completed Feb. 28, 1738.

The other parts of the township, excepting that one lot of 70 acres was reserved for mills, were divided into larger lots, called town lots, and drawn against the number of the house lots. The town lots were 271, and the whole number of lots 342, besides the prior grants already named.

The rights of the town in the North and South Eleven Thousand Acres, and in Tyringham Equivalent, were also brought into division.

The settlement was commenced in 1739. In April of that year, Lieut. Isaac Garfield and Thomas Slaton moved into No. 1, and John Chadwick, Esq., joined them about the same time. In August following, Capt. John Brewer, from Hopkinton, moved into the town, and put up a house a little south of Twelve-mile, or Brewer pond; where also he soon erected mills for the use of the inhabitants, agreeably to a contract with the

proprietors, on the site of the present Langdon mills. Concerning Capt. Brewer, it is worthy of notice, that he was the father of thirteen children. His youngest child, Col. Josiah Brewer, born Aug. 17, 1744, is still living, and is also the father of thirteen children, and has 56 descendants.

In the French war, beginning in 1744, several houses were fortified; and the fortifications were rebuilt upon the alarm produced by two or three murders in Stockbridge, in August, 1755. The first and principal of these, was around the house of Capt. Brewer; at which some soldiers were placed by the Provincial government. Among these was William Hale, who had assisted in building Fort Massachusetts in Adams, and who had been stationed in Stockbridge. He became a settler here as early as 1747, and was afterwards a deacon in the church.

About 1750, John Jackson moved into the town from Weston; and persons by the name of Thomas and Orton, four brothers by the name of Warren, with their father Joshua, (the first person born in Watertown,) moved into it about the same time.

This year, the proprietors, who had previously met for the transaction of business in the vicinity of Boston, where they then generally lived, began to hold meetings here; and on the 18th of May, 1762, the town was incorporated and called Tyringham.

It is said that this name was given at the suggestion of Lord Viscount Howe, who owned property at a place of the same name in England, and who passed through this town a few days before he fell near Ticonderoga, July 6, 1758.

The south part of the town, sometimes called South Tyringham, was generally settled at an early period; but Hop-brook, or north Tyringham, was left as an insalubrious marsh for more than twenty years. The first log house in this section of the town, was erected by Dea. Thomas Orton, about 1762, on the ground since owned and occupied by his son-in-law, Isaac Garfield, now in the possession of the Shakers. Much of this marsh is now valuable meadow. The northern road through it, is now a thriving street; the southern is through the settlements of the Shakers, which will be

noticed hereafter. From 1800 to 1820 the population of the town decreased, but for several years past has been on the advance. It may now be, perhaps, 1600.

There are five grave-yards in the town; one, south-east of the south meeting-house, now abandoned; one, west of it; one back of Hop-brook meeting-house; one among the Shakers, and another in the south-west district, recently laid out.

The town is 6 miles wide from east to west, and on the eastern side more than 7 miles long from north to south. The alterations made since the settlement are trivial; a small triangle from the north-east corner of New Marlborough was annexed to it in 1812. It is bounded by Lee on the north; by Becket, Otis, and Sandisfield on the east; by Sandisfield and New Marlborough on the south, and by New Marlborough and Great Barrington on the west.

Though the town contains many acres of good land, it is twice crossed by two heavy ranges of hills, which run in an easterly and westerly direction. One of these stretches along the northern border of the town; the other, a little above the south line, takes a westerly direction, and after passing a few miles, rises and spreads into the Beartown mountains. In the hollow between these ranges, the Hop brook, rising in a small pond in Otis, flows westerly and discharges itself into the Housatonic in Lee. It derives its name, in common with the interval and settlement on its borders, from the wild hops which formerly grew upon its banks.

On the north-eastern border of the town are two ponds called Goose ponds, which send forth a small stream that unites in Lee with Green-water brook. On the southern border are two other ponds, called Twelve-mile pond, or Brewer pond, already mentioned, and Six-mile pond. Pickerel, introduced into these ponds some years since, have now become considerably plenty. On the southern side of the western range of hills, two streams rise on nearly the same ground, and run in opposite directions. One, called East brook, after a gentle descent of two miles to the north-west, breaks through the ridge, in the brow of which it has worn a long, deep and narrow passage, and makes its way for three miles more to the Housatonic in South Lee. The other in a

Stanley, James Pratt, and Thomas Patten, from Belchertown. In 1792, they collected together in a body, on the spot which they now occupy, and formed themselves into what they denominate *church order*. They own about 1300 acres of land, which lie together, spreading from Hop-brook south-westerly on to a high hill or mountain, and 200 more in the neighborhood. Their settlements consist of two clusters of buildings, half a mile distant from each other, on a street running nearly parallel with this brook, midway up the hill, between which is a remarkably fine grove of sugar maples, interspersed with beach, birch, &c. They have a house for worship, an office, a school-house, four dwelling-houses, various shops and out-houses, and near by, a pocket furnace and saw-mill. Their number for several years past has been about 100. The males are employed, as in other Shaker settlements, in husbandry, horticulture, manufacture of wooden ware, &c. Their street, buildings, fences, and every thing about them, wear the appearance of industry, neatness, quietness, and order. They hold one meeting on the sabbath, at which the elder exhorts, and then all unite in dancing; and they usually meet from one evening to another in smaller collections for family worship, which is conducted in a similar manner.

The spiritual concerns of the three settlements at Tyringham, Hancock, and Enfield, in Connecticut, are superintended by a presiding elder, assisted by a subordinate elder in each settlement. The elders also advise in secular concerns.

There have long been two Baptist churches in Sandisfield, near the south-western and south-eastern corners of this town, at which the Baptists from this town formerly attended worship, and where some still attend.

A Baptist church, called the Baptist church of Lee and Tyringham, and consisting of members from both places, was formed Aug. 22, 1827. The members were then 29, 7 males and 13 females, taken partly from the world, and partly from other churches. Several additions have been made to it, and in May last it consisted of 37 members.

Elder Ira Hall, who had been a number of years pastor of the church in Canaan, New York, has supplied this church with preaching since its formation. He preaches alternately at Hop-brook or North Tyringham, and at South Lee.

There are some Episcopal Methodists in this town, connected with others in New Marlborough. There is also a small society of Reformed Methodists in Hop-brook.

The first school-house erected in town, was within a few rods of the present Congregational meeting-house; and the first in Hop-brook, was half a mile south of the meeting-house there. The number of common schools now in the town, is fourteen. A fund, arising from the sale of the school-lot, yields about 40 dollars annually.

There are two small but select libraries, one formed in 1791 or 2, containing 67 volumes; the other formed in 1807, containing 104 volumes.

Only twelve inhabitants of the town, of five different families, have tasted the sweets of a liberal education. Five of these are clergymen, and two are lawyers.

Thomas Benny, Giles Jackson, Amos Carpenter, Jacob Kingsbury, Elijah Fowler, and Asa J. Welch, were successively physicians. Dr. Welch is now settled in Lee. Our present physicians are Miller Sabin, a native of Lenox, and William E. Bulkley, a native of Colchester, Con.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH.

BY REV. HARLEY GOODWIN.

---

New Marlborough is one of the south towns in the County of Berkshire. It was originally called No. 2. It is bounded west by Sheffield, north by Great Barrington and Tyringham, east by Sandisfield, and south by Norfolk, Con. A small tract was annexed to this town from Sheffield in 1798, and another from Tyringham in 1811. Its length is 8½ miles from north to south, and its width 5 miles from east to west, forming an area of 42½ square miles, or 27,200 acres.

The surface is generally uneven and hilly, and like most of the more elevated towns in the County, stony; though at the time of its settlement, the stones were so deeply covered with vegetable mould, that the first inhabitants are said to have expressed their fears lest they should not find stone in sufficient quantities to answer the purposes of building. Their fears were removed by finding a quarry of white flint or sand stone, split by the hand of Nature into blocks of different sizes, nearly square, on an elevation of land in the north part of the town, called *Dry Hill.*

The soil is as various as the surface; some parts of it being best suited to grain, and some to mowing and pasturage, while other parts are adapted to either. It is generally strong, and improves by cultivation, being not alluvial, but formed chiefly by the decomposition of rock.

In the north-west part of the town is a pond about two miles in length, extending into the south-west part of Tyringham, and bordering on the south-east part of Great Barrington, called *Six-mile Pond.* It was so called first by several families of Indians, who resided six miles distant in Great Barrington, and resorted to it for the purpose of fishing. Its outlet is at the south end.

A most melancholy event occurred at this pond, July 23, 1812, the day of the National Fast, on account of the war which had a little time before been proclaimed against Great Britain. Seven persons were upset in a boat, viz. Almond Benton, Solomon Jackson Tracy, and Ruth Mills, of New Marlborough; and Cynthia Garfield, Abigail Buel, Lucy Upham, and Cynthia Upham, of Tyringham. Almond Benton, aged 19, Ruth Mills, aged 18, and Betsey Garfield, aged 21, were drowned. The others were saved. For his great exertions in rescuing these, a Mr. Buel was honoured with a medal by the Washington Benevolent Society of Berkshire.

It is sometimes observed that sudden and alarming providences are seldom followed with saving benefit to the subjects. But it ought to be noticed here, to the honour of divine grace, that the four persons just named. who were delivered from death, have since made a public profession of religion. They all date back their first serious impressions to this time of peril and of mercy. Mr. Tracy is now a candidate for the holy ministry.

A stream rises near the east line of the town, and running north-west, passes into Tyringham, and uniting with a stream which flows from a pond in that town, returns in a south-westerly direction into New Marlborough, and having furnished in its course four or five mill-seats, joins the outlet of Six-mile pond. It is afterwards called *Konkapot* or *Iron Work river.* It received the name of *Konkapot,* from the circumstance that an Indian family of the same name lived by its side, in the border of Sheffield. The stream, which perpetuates their name, runs south through the western part of the town, and after passing a little over the line into Sheffield, runs south by east into Canaan, Con. Then

bending round to the north-west, passes again into Sheffield, and unites with the Housatonic not far from the line between Sheffield and Canaan. It furnishes eight or ten mill-seats.

A stream called *Umpachene*, rises in the east part of the town, and passing by the centre, runs south-west, furnishing three or four mill-seats, and empties into the Konkapot. The Umpachene derived its name from an Indian, whose residence was on its western side, about one mile south-west from the north meeting-house. This Indian, and also the Konkapots, so far conformed to the customs of the whites, as to do something towards cultivating the farms on which they lived.

In the south part of the town is a pond, denominated *Harmon pond*, which covers several acres. This pond, and also the other ponds in town, as may, perhaps, be true of all other ponds, are becoming less in dimension, owing to the washing in of earth and the collection of vegetable matter about their shores, or to the deepening of their outlets, or to both.

In the south-east part of the town is a pond, a mile and a half or more in circumference, called by the different names of *Hermit*, *Knapp*, *Norton*, and *East pond*, which is the source of a stream that runs south-west into Canaan, affording in its course three or four mill-seats. This pond derived its first name from the circumstance that a hermit lived for several years on its south-eastern side. The name of this hermit was Timothy Leonard. He came from Fredericksburgh, Dutchess county, N. Y., five or six years before the Revolutionary war; and though he purchased a farm, he led a solitary life till the day of his death. He died June 13, 1817, from infirmity and old age, being as was supposed in his 70th year. Unwilling that any one should remain with him during a single night, he died as he lived, alone and unattended. The cause of his leading such a life is supposed to be explained by the fact that he was an inveterate hater of women. His description of them was—"*They say they will, and they won't.*" Let none smile at the history of Timothy Leonard; for he is not the only one who has suffered disappointed hope and mortified pride to blot out the

social affections, and produce uselessness, wretchedness and ruin.

Towards the south line of the town is a cave of some little note. A description of it would be like many descriptions which have been given of subterranean caverns. It is beneath a ridge of rocks, a few rods east of one of the roads which lead to Canaan. Its aperture is small. It has several apartments of various dimensions, whose sides and roofs are limestone, on which stalactites are contiuually forming.

About one-fourth of a mile south-west from the south meeting-house, is a rock, judged to weigh 30 or 40 tons, so equally balanced on another rock, that a man may move it with his little finger.

The township was granted in 1736 to 72 proprietors, mostly belonging to Marlborough and its vicinity, in the county of Middlesex, by "The Great and General Court or Assembly" [as the style then was] "of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts' Bay in New England, held at Boston." The proprietors obtained the township of the Indians by deed; and the deed was confirmed by the "General Court." Among other divisions of land into which the township was surveyed, were house lots, consisting of 60 acres each, excepting where the land was of an inferior quality, or inconvenient for a residence, in which cases a greater number of acres was allowed for a house lot, or some other division of land was granted to make up the defect. The number of house lots was 63, besides 1 for each grantee. Of the 63 lots, 3 were reserved as public property, one being designed for the support of schools, one for the first, and one for the second minister.

The first improvements were made in 1739, by Mr. Benjamin Wheeler, from Marlborough. During the winter of 1739–40, which was one of what have been called "memorable hard winters," Mr. Wheeler remained the only white inhabitant in town, and continued to fell the forest. A family of natives resided near the outlet of Six-mile pond. These, or the Indians geneally, though in most respects friendly, forbade him the use of a gun, lest he should kill the deer, and thus withheld from him a part of the means on which, perhaps, he had depended for support. His nearest white neigh-

bours were in Sheffield, at a distance of ten miles. Some of these, on snow-shoes, came to see him in the course of the winter, and afforded him such proofs of their friendship, as his circumstances required. During the following summer, he visited Marlborough, and returned with his family.

The other first settlers came as follows: Noah Church, Jabez Ward, Thomas Tattlow, Elias Keyes, Joseph Blackmer, Jesse Taylor, John Taylor, William Witt, and Philip Brookins, from Marlborough or vicinity, in 1741.

Samuel Bryan, some time previous to 1744, from Marlborough.

Joseph Adams, Moses Cleaveland, Silas Freeman, in 1744, and Charles Adams, Solomon Randsford, Nathan Randsford, and Jarvis Pike, in 1745, from Canterbury, Con.

Families by the name of Sheldon, Wright, and Allen, from Northampton, about 1745.

Not long after, families by the name of Sheldon, Norton, and Harmon, from Suffield, Con.

William Alexander and John Thompson, natives of Ireland, from Dedham, about 1746.

And about 1760, families by the name of Bullard and Rawson, from Mendon.

The first born in town were twins, children of Mr. Brookins, a son and a daughter; the latter of whom is still living.

The first church was organized Oct. 31, 1744, consisting of the following persons: Moses Cleaveland, Samuel Bryan, Jesse Taylor, William Witt, and Joseph Adams. On the following day, Rev. Thomas Strong, native of Northampton, and graduate of Yale College, 1740, was ordained as pastor of this church. Mr. Strong's salary was £50. He also had the use and disposal of the lot of land which has been mentioned. Towards raising his salary, a tax was paid for several years by the proprietors of the township, many of whom resided at a distance. Thus was manifested the desire of our forefathers to establish the preaching of the gospel in new settlements. To all their descendants it may with propriety be said, "*Freely ye have received, freely give.*"

Mr. Strong died Aug. 23, 1777, in the 62d year of his age, and in the 33d of his ministry. According to the inscription on the stone which stands over his remains, "he was equally removed from levity and austerity, and possessed those social virtues which made him the agreeable friend and companion. In his ministerial office, he made it the business of his life to instruct the ignorant, reclaim the vicious, visit the sick and afflicted, and extend the hand of charity to the needy and distressed." During his ministry, not far from 170 were admitted to the church, some by profession, and some by recommendation.

Rev. Caleb Alexander, D. D., native of Northfield, and graduate of Yale College, 1777, was ordained Feb. 28, 1781, and dismissed June 28, 1782. His ministry was useful, in inducing the church to discontinue "the half-way covenant," and receive none but those who gave evidence of "being renewed in the spirit of their minds." According to the grant of the proprietors, he was entitled to the second ministerial lot, or a quantity of land equal in value.

After his dismission, and previous to the settlement of his successor, about 50 were gathered into the church. These were principally the fruits of a revival which took place under occasional preaching.

After leaving New Marlborough, Dr. Alexander was settled at Mendon, in this State, where he is said to have performed faithful labours. He was dismissed from that place for the want of support, in 1803. After this, he became preceptor, first of the Academy at Fairfield, and then of the Academy at Onondaga Hollow, New York. He died at the latter place in April, 1828.

Rev. Jacob Catlin, D. D., native of Harwinton, Con., and graduate of Yale College, 1784, was ordained July 4, 1787. He died April 12, 1826, aged 68. His characteristics were industry, patience, frankness, meekness. His intellectual faculties were clear and vigorous, adapted to reasoning and investigation, rather than to description. His religious views were thoroughly Calvinistic, and he preached much and with success upon what are frequently termed "the doctrines of grace."

He published a work on theology, entitled "*Catlin's Compendium*;" which does honour to his understanding and his heart, and which has been printed a second time. Not far from 250 persons, most of them the subjects of three or four different revivals, were added to the church during his ministry.

The present pastor was ordained, as colleague with Dr. Catlin, Jan. 4, 1826. During his ministry, 61, by profession, have been admitted to the church, which Jan. 1, 1829, consisted of 199 members, 68 males, and 131 females.

*Deacons of this Church.*

Nathaniel Harmon; elected Dec. 1749; removed to Bennington, Vt.

Seth Strong; elected June, 1756; removed to Egremont.

Jesse Taylor; elected between 1761 and 6; died Nov. 1782.

Caleb Wright; elected May, 1772; died Jan. 1815, aged 90.

Ephraim Guiteau; do. do. removed to Norfolk, Con.

Samuel Sheldon; elected July, 1780; died August, 1818, aged 84.

Artemas Brigham; elected April, 1797; died Jan. 1798, aged 46.

Ezra Knapp; elected March, 1799; removed to Wolcott, N. Y.

Abner Hitchcock; elected June, 1806; died June, 1827, aged 84.

Seth Sheldon; elected May, 1808; died July, 1827, aged 80.

Zenas Wheeler; elected Oct. 1812.

David Walker; elected May, 1817.

Nathan Chapin; elected Oct. 1826.

Moses Shepard; elected June, 1827.

The first meeting-house, though not immediately covered and prepared for use, was erected in 1743, nearly on the ground where the present north meeting-house stands. The expense of building it was defrayed *by the* proprietors of the township.

The second, which is the present north meeting-house, was built in 1793. In consequence of a disagreement with regard to the location of this house, another house was built the same year; and in 1794 the town was divided by the Legislature, and a new parish, called the South Parish, incorporated.

On the twenty-fifth of April, in the latter year, the second or south church, was organized of members from the first church, 21 in number. Eight more, who were dismissed with a view of being united with them, were united after the settlement of Mr. Stevens.

The first pastor of this church, Rev. John Stevens, native of Danbury, Con., and graduate of Yale College, 1779, was installed Oct. 22, 1794. He had previously been settled in New Concord society, town of Chatham, N. Y. He died Jan. 6, 1799, aged 49. He was a man of uniform and affectionate seriousness, and greatly beloved. During his last illness, he wrote an address to his people, and delivered it to Rev. Dr. Catlin to read at his funeral. Much of the language of this address was as though it had been uttered from the invisible world. The effect was deep and solemn; and several who had disregarded the living voice of the preacher, now listened to his entreaties, and began their preparations for eternity. He received 9 to the church during his ministry, besides the 8 recommended from the first church before his installation. In the interval between his death and the ordination of his successor, nineteen were received to the communion.

Rev. Nathaniel Turner, native of Norfolk, Con., and graduate of Williams College 1798, was ordained July 10 1799. He died May 25, 1812, aged 41. He was cheerful, sociable, prompt, active; uncommonly easy of utterance, and prepared as by intuition for all occasions. Few of his sermons were written; but many of them are engraven on the memories, and some of them on the hearts of those who heard them. He admitted 52 to the church.

Rev. Sylvester Burt, native of Southampton, and graduate of Williams College, 1804, was installed April 21, 1813, and dismissed Dec. 31, 1822. He admitted 85 to the fellowship of the church.

Rev. Alvan Somers, A. M., native of Sharon, Con., was installed May 11, 1825, and dismissed May 26, 1828. The admissions by him were 11.

There have been several seasons of revival in this town. Both parishes were visited in 1827.

*Deacons.*

Nathan Butler; moved to Paris, N. Y.
Joseph Fitch; do. Geneva, Ohio.
Ebenezer Smith, Esq.; died Sept. 8, 1816, aged 71.
Benjamin Smith.
Isaac Turner.
Gideon Canfield.

The South Parish have an ecclesiastical or ministerial fund for the support of the gospel, obtained by subscription in 1794, amounting to $3,152: it is lent on interest, and yields yearly $189 12. The trustees of this fund were incorporated June 19, 1812.

The town was incorporated in 1759. It is divided into 12 school districts. The public grant for the support of schools is $600 annually. In addition to this, about $125 a year arises from a fund, which in part resulted from "the school-lot," and in part was created by the town. For three or four years past, an independent school for young ladies has existed.

There are two public libraries; one formed in 1795, containing at the present time 80 or 90 volumes; the other, in 1805, containing about 115 volumes. Both have once or twice been sold out, and renewed.

The sum expended for maintaining the poor, for several years past, has been from 600 to 800 dollars annually. The poor are kept by the lowest bidders.

There are 278 dwelling-houses, 4 grist-mills; 15 saw-mills, 1 stone saw-mill, 1 forge, 5 clothiers' works, 4 carding machines, 2 post-offices, one established in 1806, the other in 1828; 6 stores, and 1 tavern.

*Physicians of New Marlborough.*

Elihu Wright.
Ebenezer Parish.
Ephraim Guiteau; removed to Norfolk, Con.
David Church; removed to New Orleans, Lou.
*Benjamin* Smith; still living.
*Elijah* Catlin; died June 5, 1823, aged 61.

Reuben Buckman ; still living.
Gilbert Smith ; died about 1804.
Ira Smith ; removed to Auburn, N. Y.
Edmund C. Peet ; died May 6, 1828, aged 44.
Remus M. Fowler ; removed to Washington, Con.
John Scovill ; still living.
Aretas Rising ; "

*Magistrates.*

Jabez Ward ; died Aug. 29, 1787, aged 60.
Jabez Ward ; " Aug. 17, 1786, aged 52.
Obadiah Ward ; moved away.
Daniel Taylor ; died July 6, 1814.
Ebenezer Smith ; died Sept. 8, 1816, aged 71.
Benjamin Wheeler ; still living.
Joseph Fitch ; "
Jason Warner ; "
Edward Stevens ; "
Isaac Turner ; "
Benjamin Sheldon ; "
Warren Wheeler ; "
Levi L. Smith ; "

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF SANDISFIELD.

BY REV. LEVI WHITE.

---

This town now includes the original township of Sandisfield, and the tract formerly called the South Eleven Thousand Acres. This tract was incorporated as a district in 1797, and annexed to Sandisfield in 1819. The town is situated in the south-east corner of Berkshire County, and is in extent six miles from east to west, and about nine miles from north to south. It is longer, however, on the east than on the west line. It is bounded on the south by Connecticut line, which separates it from Colebrook and Norfolk; on the west by New Marlborough, and for a small distance, by Tyringham; on the north by Tyringham and Otis; and on the east by Otis and Tolland. It contains about 34,560 acres.

The surface of the town is hilly in general; the hills are to a considerable height, but not abrupt, rising into large swells. In the south-east section of the town, however, a considerable mountain rises on the western bank of Farmington river, known by the name of Hanging mountain. Its highest point of elevation is 450 feet above the bank, and presents to the south-east a mural perpendicular front, more than 300 feet high. Large pieces of rocks, dislocated by the frost, or other causes, often fall from the jutting side with tremendous force.

Farmington river runs near the east line of the town through the whole extent, and affords many mill-seats and water privileges. And there are other small streams intersecting the town, upon which are mills and other machinery. In the north part of the town, at the outlet of

Spectacle pond, the water privileges are excellent. But as the site is remote from any good road, but little use comparatively, is made of the water at present. There are two other ponds in the town, but small in extent. There are abundance of springs, and the town generally is supplied with excellent water.

The soil is various, but generally of a good quality. It consists of a moist loam; stony in many places, and principally adapted to grazing. Some parts of the town, however, are suited to the cultivation of different kinds of grain. Formerly the raising of live stock of various kinds, was the principal object of farmers: but for a number of years past, the dairy has been pursued with success, and carried on extensively.

This town was originally Indian hunting ground. In clearing a piece of ground, a few years since, a large number of heads of arrows, formed of stone, was found safely deposited between two rocks; probably placed there ages ago. So far as appears, the town was never an Indian settlement.

This town, in connection with Tyringham, New Marlborough, and Becket, was granted to a company who petitioned for the same in 1735. It was called No. 3. The proprietors generally lived in the county of Worcester. The charter of the town was granted in 1736; and the year following the proprietors held their first meeting for the purpose of choosing a committee to survey and divide the town into lots. Many meetings were held in successive years.

The town was designed at first to have been six miles square; but an addition was made to the south end of it, in consideration of ponds; and then there was left to the south and south-east, the South Eleven Thousand Acres abovementioned.

No family moved into the town until 1750. Thomas Brown was the first. Soon after, his father, Daniel Brown, Esq., moved in with his numerous family. He owned a large share of the town; and in transacting its concerns, was the principal man. He was born near Boston, though he had lived for some time in Enfield, Con. The settlement of the town advanced rapidly. A large number of families came in from Wethersfield, Con., and the adjoining towns; also a considerable

number from the towns below Plymouth, on Cape Cod. This town was incorporated in 1762.

The first white child born in the town, was *Lot* Smith. He was born on the 7th of Aug. 1757, and was thus called, because the proprietors, meeting on that day, talked of giving him a lot of land. Of this they failed, but his mother insisted upon his being called *Lot*. On the 13th of the same month, Mr. Sanford Brown was born, who is still living.

The General Court, in their original grant, manifested a regard for public worship, and made it a condition of the grant, that the proprietors should locate 300 acres, to be given to the first settled minister, and the same to the second. Afterwards, in 1766, the proprietors gave a lot of one hundred acres for the use of the successive ministers of the first parish. The town enjoyed a preached gospel within five or six years of the first settlement. The first meeting-house was erected about 1757, but was not finished till 1761. This remained till the second was built, which was in 1796. Its site is very nearly in the centre of the town, and the house is literally built upon a rock.

The Congregational church was formed in 1756. It consisted of seven male members: how many female, is unknown.

Three pastors have been settled over this church: the Rev. Cornelius Jones, Eleazer Storrs, and Levi White. As Mr. Jones was in a few years dismissed, little is known respecting the state of the church under his ministry. Under the ministry of Mr. Storrs, there were considerable numbers added to the church, though the precise number cannot be ascertained. In 1798, when the present pastor was ordained, the church consisted of about 70 members. There were about 25 active male members. Since that time, 307 have been admitted to the church. Many in the course of this time have died, and very many have moved to the new settlements.

The present number of members in the church is little rising of 200.

Mr. Jones was born in Bellingham, and graduated at *Harvard* College in 1752. He was ordained at the time *the church* was organized; and for want of a more con-

venient place, was ordained in a barn. The first President Edwards, then settled over the Stockbridge Indians, was moderator of the council, preached the ordination sermon, was active in forming the church, and drew up the articles of faith and covenant, which are substantially the same at the present time. In consequence of difficulties, Mr. Jones was dismissed in 1761. The year after, he purchased 10,000 acres of wild land, which constitutes the principal part of the present town of Rowe. He removed to the place in 1764 or 5, and became a wealthy farmer, but preached occasionally. About 1779 or 80, having disposed of all his lands, he removed to Skenesborough, now Whitehall, in the State of New York, where he died at an advanced age, having sustained the reputation of a pious, good man. He preached occasionally until his death, though he never settled in the ministry after leaving Sandisfield. He was a zealous whig, and in the capacity of a military officer, commanded the militia of Rowe at the capture of Burgoyne. One of his sons was killed in a skirmish with the Indians near Saratoga.

Mr. Storrs, the second minister, was a native of Mansfield, Con. He was graduated at Yale College in 1762. He was ordained pastor of this church and people, Feb. 26, 1766. He was a popular preacher, and retained the affections of his people until the unhappy Shays insurrection. At that time, from his measures in favour of government, a considerable number were offended, and left his ministry. He, however, continued his pastoral relation till, in consequence of ill health, he was dismissed, April 26, 1797. He continued in feeble health a number of years, and died Dec. 24, 1810. aged 72.

Mr. White succeeded him, June 28, 1798, and is the present pastor. He is a native of Randolph, in this State, and is connected by consanguinity to Peregrine White, who is said to have been the first child of English descent born in New England. His collegiate education was received at Dartmouth College, where he was graduated in 1796.

There have been a number of seasons of special religious attention in this town. Under the ministry of

Mr. Storrs, there were two or three partial revivals of religion, and some as fruits were added to the church.

In 1799, soon after the settlement of the present pastor, there was a revival of considerable extent. Thirty were added to the Congregational church, and a number to the Baptist. More than usual seriousness also prevailed in 1803. After this, for a number of years, there was but little special attention to religion, and the friends of Zion mourned.

In 1815, at the monthly concert in September, was a scene of solemnity long to be remembered, and such as never was witnessed before in this place. From this time, an unusual religious inquiry and solemnity rapidly extended into almost all sections of the town. This revival continued with little abatement for six months. About 200 indulged a hope of an interest in the Saviour. In less than a year, 140 were admitted to the Congregational church, and a considerable number to the Baptist.

In 1821, there was a partial revival of religion, and 22 were added to the church. Also in 1827 there was a religious excitement of considerable extent. To the Congregational church 40 were admitted as the fruits of it.

There are two Baptist churches in Sandisfield, though the meeting-house of the Second Church is in the south-west corner of Otis.

The first was organized Aug. 21, 1779. The society with which this is connected, was incorporated Feb. 25, 1794, by the Legislature of the State; and Baptists from Sandisfield, Tyringham and New Marlborough were permitted to unite with it. They meet for worship in the north-west part of the town, where they erected their present meeting-house in 1802.

On the 2d of Oct. 1779, Elder Joshua Morse, who was present at its organization, was constituted pastor of this church. He had been previously ordained, in May, 1750, at New London, Con. His connection with it was dissolved by death, July 26, 1795, in the 70th year of his age. The church gradually increased during his ministry. Those admitted to the church during his ministry, taken in connection with those admitted at its organization, were 101.

In 1798, Mr. Jesse Hartwell, from Ashfield, *improved* with the church, and on the 9th of January, 1800, was ordained an Evangelist; but preached generally to this people. In May, 1827, he was dismissed from the church, and soon after removed to Perry, Geauga Co., Ohio.

This church enjoyed revivals in 1798 or 9, 1806, 1815, and in the spring of 1818, to some of which, allusions have been already made. By the first, 74, by the second, 18, by the third, 27, and by the fourth, 14, were brought into the communion. In the spring of 1827, there was some special attention, but few admissions.

Besides the admissions already adverted to, individuals have been admitted at other times; so that the whole number admitted from the beginning is 270. The present number of communicants is 54.

The second Baptist church, consisting of 19 members, was constituted April 25, 1788. Gradually increasing, the church called Mr. Benjamin Baldwin, a native of Otis, to be their minister, who was ordained June 9, 1790. He died July 24, 1810, aged 52. Having been useful in life, he was greatly lamented. During his ministry there were several revivals, and about 211 added to the church.

Mr. Israel Keach, a native of Hoosic, N. Y., successor to Elder Baldwin, was ordained June 18, 1817; and dismissed Feb. 23, 1824. A revival occurred during his ministry, and 47 were added to the church.

Since his dismission, though destitute of a pastor, the church has been favored with a revival, and 35 have been added to their number.

The whole number belonging to the church from the beginning, is about 288. It has ever enjoyed a good degree of harmony. The present number of members is 124.

There are in Sandisfield, 230 dwelling-houses, 5 stores, 2 post-offices, 3 taverns, 2 grist-mills, 8 saw-mills, 2 oil-mills, and 6 tanneries, some of them extensive.

There are 13 district schools in town, and the town appropriates $600 annually for the support of schooling; a considerable sum is raised by the districts.

Two public libraries have been established in town; one in the centre containing about 350 volumes, and one at New Boston containing nearly as many. They have been of about 20 years standing.

The annual expense of supporting the poor of the town is about $500; and the selectmen have the oversight of them.

*Physicians in Sandisfield.*

Amos Smith, —— Holden, —— Cowder, Samuel Carrington, —— Buckman, —— Morrison, Robert King, Erastus Beach, Ebenezer Balch.

*Lawyers.*

Ephraim A. Judson, David B. Curtis, and Thomas Twining.

Mr. Judson was the only son of the Rev. Mr. Judson, of Sheffield. He was graduated at Williams College in 1797, and admitted to the Berkshire bar about 1800. He died March 6, 1807, aged 31.

Mr. Curtis was a native of Granville, was graduated at Williams College in 1801, and admitted to the bar in 1806. He died at Black Rock, N. Y., during the late war.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF BECKET.

BY REV. JOSEPH L. MILLS.

THIS town lies upon the Green Mountain range, and is bounded by Washington on the north, by Middlefield and Chester on the east, by Otis on the south, and by Tyringham and Lee on the west. It was granted to Joseph Brigham and 59 others in 1735; and a few individuals came into the town with a view of settling in it, as early as 1740; but through fear of the Indians they returned home, not, however, until they had erected a saw mill in the east part of the town, for which they were rewarded by the other proprietors. The first permanent settlement was made in 1755, by persons who emigrated principally from the eastern part of Connecticut. The first settlers were of the name of Birchard, Goss, King, Kingsley, Messenger, Wadsworth, Wait, and Walker. All these names, with the exception of Goss, now remain in town. The descendants of the Wadsworth family are numerous. Jabez Wadsworth, the first native of the town, was born in December of the year in which the settlement began; who, after sustaining a respectable and christian character, died in April, 1826.

The town was incorporated by its present name, June 21, 1765, and the first town meeting was held on the 15th of the succeeding month; at which time Nathaniel Kingsley was chosen moderator and clerk; Nathaniel Kingsley, James Birchard and Eldad Taylor were chosen selectmen, James Birchard treasurer, and Jonathan

Walker constable. Of these persons, Mr. Birchard was the last survivor. After a long and useful life, he died, in the consolation of that religion which he had many years professed, July 27, 1828, aged about 90.

It was originally intended that the town should be of the contents of six miles square; but owing to the ponds included in it, (it is understood,) it was laid out a little larger. The chartered limits were 8 miles by 4 and 210 rods. But various alterations have taken place since the charter was given, and the lines of the town are now very irregular. In 1783, that part of the town which lay north-east of the west branch of Agawam or Westfield river, was united with certain other tracts, and formed into the present town of Middlefield. In 1798, a tract lying between this town and Blanford, and that part of Otis which was then called Loudon, was annexed to the town on the south. In 1810, another smaller tract was annexed to the town from that part of Otis which was formerly called Bethlehem. By these alterations, the town has gained somewhat more than it has lost, and the contents are now about 26,000 acres.

The surface is hilly, broken and rocky. Stones of almost every species exist, but the granite prevails, frequently impregnated with iron and sulphur. It is uniformly found not far from the surface, and in many places rises above it, in huge masses, and in "unblushing nakedness."

The soil is hard and cold; very little clay or sand is found. The natural growth of timber is that which is common in the vicinity, excepting walnut, chesnut, and white oak. Attempts have been made to cultivate these, but with little success. The varieties of *fir* are indigenous; but when removed, a crop of beach and maple commonly succeeds, especially on the hills.

When well cultivated the ground yields rye and corn in moderate quantities; wheat is "not at home" in this soil. The farmer finds his principal account in the cultivation of grass. Indifferent horses, excellent neat cattle and fine sheep cover the hills. Of course, beef, butter, cheese, wool, and its fabrics, constitute the principal income.

The water is uniformly salubrious. The streams are many and rapid; but as they are all natives of the

town, they are of course small, and scarcely supply sufficient water for mills. In the west part of the town is a pond, called Green-water pond, which after stretching two miles along the Farmington river turnpike, sends forth at the north a small stream which unites with the Housatonic in Lee. Beyond this, on the line of Tyringham, on very elevated ground, are two connected ponds, called Goose ponds, the outlet of which unites with Green-water brook. With the same brook, the outlet of a small pond called Mud pond, also unites. A mile or two south-easterly of Green water pond, is a small pond, which with some neighboring marshes gives rise to Farmington river. On the height of ground east of Green-water pond, is Yokum pond, thus called, it is said, from an Indian who died there, the outlet of which is to the north-east. Further east is Rudd pond, whose outlet unites with that of Yokum pond, and the stream runs north into the Agawam. North of the Congregational church is Centre pond, two miles long in some places a mile wide, and in some very deep. The stream from this flows into Agawam river. In the south-east part of the town is another considerable pond, called Horn pond, whose outlet is a tributary to the same stream.

The machinery propelled by water, are 2 grist-mills, 5 saw-mills, 3 carding machines, and 2 clothiers' works. There are 2 post-offices in the town, and 4 licensed taverns.

With the exception of two physicians, two merchants, a few mechanics, and one minister of the gospel, the inhabitants are farmers; industrious, frugal, plain in manners, and independent in spirit.

Notwithstanding the severity of the winter, and the the prevalence of high piercing winds during that season, health generally prevails; and the longevity of the inhabitants is believed to be uncommon, even in New England. From somewhat more than 1000 inhabitants, the average number of deaths is only about 12 in a year.

There is only one public grave-yard in the town, and and that is in the centre; though some individuals have been buried in the east and some in the west part of the town.

The fathers of the town were determined to support the institutions of the gospel. On the 11th of October, 1758, they invited Mr. Ebenezer Martin, a graduate of Yale College, to settle with them in the ministry; and on the 28th of December following the church was gathered and organized. Mr. Martin was ordained Feb. 23, 1759, and continued pastor of the church until Oct. 12, 1764, when he was dismissed.

The first house for public worship was erected in 1762, and remained about 40 years.

The Rev. Zadock Hunn was called to the pastoral office, Sept. 26, 1770, and ordained June 5, 1771. He was dismissed in October, 1788, and subsequently removed to the county of Ontario, N. Y., where he labored faithfully and usefully among the new settlers, who were then crowding into that region. He died at Canandaigua, May 12, 1801. He was born in Wethersfield, (Newington parish) Con., and graduated at Yale College, 1766.

After the dismission of Mr. Hunn, the inhabitants became more and more disunited in religious sentiments, until the members of the Congregational church and society found it impracticable to raise money for the support of the gospel by taxation. After great difficulty and trial, an effort was made to raise a fund by subscription for this purpose. The subscribers to this fund, then 60 in number, were incorporated as the *first Congregational Society in Becket*, Feb. 17, 1798. The fund amounts to $5,565 36.

In the autumn following, it was proposed to build a new house for public worship, by the sale of the pews. This house was raised on the 20th of May, and dedicated on the 19th of November, 1800. The bell attached to it was a donation from Mr. David Brown, in October, 1812.

After the employment of various candidates, the Rev. Joseph L. Mills, the present pastor, was ordained June 5, 1806.

*Deacons.*

Isaiah Kingsley; chosen March 8, 1759; died 1797.

Ebenezer Bush; chosen Dec. 9, 1761; died 1768.

Nathaniel Kingsley; chosen Oct. 14, 1772; died 1807.

Ebenezer Walden; chosen Nov. 9, 1797; died 1822.
Oliver Brewster; do. 1812.
Elijah Alford; chosen Oct. 8, 1807; dismissed 1811
Enos Kingsley; do.
Gaius Carter; chosen June 5, 1816.

At the time Dea. Alford was dismissed, 10 others were dismissed, and with him formed into a new church. They removed to Ohio, and settled a new township, since called Windham.

This town has been favoured with several seasons of revival. About the year 1776 or 7, there was a revival, the good effects of which were long visible. In 1807, more than usual attention was manifest among the people, and though it was confined principally to one section of the town, it resulted in the admission of about 20 to the Congregational church. In 1815 and 16, a more extensive and powerful work spread among the inhabitants: more than 70 entertained hopes of a saving change. In 1827 the Lord visited the people again in mercy, and as the fruits of it, 98 were added to the Congregational, and a number to the Baptist church. On the first of January last, the communicants in the Congregational church were 194.

The Baptist church was organized in Sept., 1764. Their first pastor was Elder Robert Nesbit. He was succeeded by Elder Amos Kingsley, who was ordained in 1810, and removed from town in 1815. The church is now vacant.

The number of members in May last, was 50. The present deacons are Samuel Chapman and Timothy Snow.

The Baptist meeting house was built in 1815.

The district schools in town are 9, and are commonly taught each nine months in the year. They are decently and cheerfully supported, and are increasing in respectablity and usefulness. We have also a well selected library in successful operation.

Dr. Oliver Brewster served this town many years as a physician. He was a gentleman of great excellence, and was very useful not only in his profession, but as a Christian and as an officer in the church. He was succeeded by his son, John M. Brewster, who is now settled as a physician in Lenox. Charles Culver, suc-

ceeded him, but has removed to Chatham, N. Y. Our present physicians are Chester J. Freeland, and Vassal White, jun.

*Magistrates.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nathaniel Kingsley; | commissioned 1777; | died 1807. |
| George Conant; | 1805; | |
| Benjamin C. Perkins; | 1813; | |
| Asa Baird; | do. | 1825. |
| Gaius Carter, | 1829; | |
| Timothy Snow, | do | |

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF OTIS.

BY REV. JONATHAN LEE.

---

This town consists of the former town of Loudon and the district of Bethlehem. Loudon was incorporated in 1773. Previously it was called Tyringham Equivalent, because most of it was granted to the proprietors of Tyringham, to compensate them for certain losses which they sustained. It was bounded by Becket on the north, by Blanford on the east, by West Granville [now Tolland] on the south, and by Sandisfield and Bethlehem on the West. It was of an irregular, oblong shape, being greater in breadth at the north than at the south end. It was upon an average seven miles in length from north to south, and about three in breadth, from east to west. The contents were formerly estimated at 13,000 acres, of which 2944 were ponds.

Bethlehem was incorporated in 1789. This was originally called the North Eleven Thousand Acres, with reference to Southfield, which was called the South Eleven Thousand Acres. Both these tracts, with the exception, perhaps, of a few individual grants, belonged to the four towns of Tyringham, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, and Becket. Bethlehem was four miles square, bounded on the north by Becket, on the east by Loudon, on the south by Sandisfield, and on the west by Tyringham. It was three miles less in extent than Loudon, from north to south; and as Sandisfield extended as far east as Bethlehem, the north-east corner of Sandisfield is but one half mile south of the centre of the present town of Otis.

The general aspect of the town is uneven and broken. The ground rises into hills on each side of the Farmington river, east and west. It abounds with granite rock, which renders tillage difficult and expensive. The land, however, by being cleared of stones, and suitably manured, yields good crops of potatoes, oats, Indian corn, summer wheat and rye. Winter wheat is not raised, and winter rye is cultivated only upon newly cleared land. The corn best adapted to the soil, on account of its ripening early, and being less liable to be injured by frost, is a smaller species than that which is cultivated in warmer soils. The land usually affords good pasturage, and is best suited to dairying and to the raising of cattle and of sheep; to which objects it is principally devoted. The inhabitants purchase most of their breadstuffs abroad. A considerable portion of the mowing land yields a moderate crop of hay; in consequence of which the number of acres mown is large. By providing and preparing a sufficiency of manure, farmers might make great improvement in this respect.

Orchards are sufficiently numerous and productive, usually to afford a supply of cider for the inhabitants, and often a surplus. When due attention is bestowed upon the cultivation of apples, some of the finest species and of an excellent quality are produced.

The forest land is considerably extensive, consisting principally of beach, birch, hard and soft maple, ash, and hemlock. Farmers generally make a sufficiency of maple sugar for their consumption, and some for sale. Pine, which in the settlement of the town was abundant, has now become scarce, and the same is true of white ash, which has been greatly used in the manufacture of wooden ware. The lumber business, formerly pursued to a large extent, has much diminished.

Farmington river, passing through the town from north to south, is the largest stream in Otis. It rises in Becket, and is formed by the union of two streams in the north part of the town. In its course it furnishes several mill-seats. There are four saw mills, two clothiers' works, and a grist-mill and carding machine. Built upon it, near the Hartford and Albany turnpike

This turnpike, which follows the course of Farmington river, is a stage road from Pittsfield to Hartford and the principal road of travel through the town. The roads east and west, though much better made than formerly, are in an inferior state of improvement.

The chain of ponds in the eastern section of the town, is connected by a considerable stream, which after leaving the last pond, falls down a precipice, probably sixty or seventy feet, and almost perpendicular, forming a considerable cataract. The stream, which passes off through a deep defile into Farmington river, affords excellent seats for mills and manufacturing establishments, at a convenient distance from the Hartford turnpike. The name of this stream is Fall river, and it unites with Farmington river in the southern part of the Loudon section of the town. Great pond, the first in the chain, is a beautiful expanse of water, in the north-eastern part of the town, embosoming a considerable island, called Ram island, and another one of smaller size. The stream passes from this to Rand pond, on which is built a grist-mill, an oil-mill, and a saw-mill. Rand pond may be a half mile in breadth and two miles in length, extending into the edge of Tolland, and then bending to the north: from this, Fall river flows. Parish pond lies half a mile west of Great pond, and affords a small stream, running separately to Farmington river; and upon this stream a saw-mill is built. There is still another pond, called Larkeom pond, perhaps a mile west of Rand pond, and north of Fall river, surrounded by abrupt hills, except at the south end, from which a stream of water passes into Fall river. Rand pond is seventy-six feet lower than Great pond, and Larkeom pond probably two hundred feet lower than Rand pond. A stream from the east, upon which two saw-mills stand, enters Farmington river, half a mile south of the meeting-house, in the centre of the town.

Ward brook, from the west, upon which a saw-mill stands, enters Farmington river, about three-fourths of a mile below the meeting-house.

The land throughout the town is well supplied with streams and springs of water; the water of the wells is usually very pure, and rarely fails. Droughts are not

so severe in their effects upon vegetation in this town, as in soils composed more of sand and gravel.

Iron ore has been dug in one place, but so near to marshy ground and a stream of water, that the design of raising it has been abandoned.

At the distance of about half a mile west of the centre of the town, is a rock with an opening or cavity in it, near the surface of the ground, where crystals of quartz and iron pyrites have been found. In the early settlement of Bethlehem, Daniel Sumner, while hunting for deer near this rock, (as is reported,) heard a sudden loud explosion, which greatly surprised and alarmed him. Curiosity leading him to examine from what source it proeeeded, he found an unusual appearance of the rock, which was discolored, where a fissure had been made, from which he inferred that the sound had proceeded from that place. It was probably produced by the combustion of hydrogen gas.

At what time the settlement commenced in Loudon is not known. It was probably as early as between 1750 and 60. Some of the earliest inhabitants, whose names can be ascertained, were David Kibbe, Stephen Kibbe, Isaac Kibbe, Dan Gregory, —— Larkeom, Jeremy Stow, Eldad Bower, Ephraim Pelton, George Troop, Ebenezer Trumbull, Jacob Cook, Timothy Whitney, Jonathan Norton, and Smith Marcy.

The Kibbes and Larkeom were from Enfield, Con.; E. Pelton from Granville; T. Whitney from Petersham, Mass.; J. Norton from Suffield, Con.; and S. Marcy from Woodstock, Con.

The vote to build the first school-house was passed in 1774. The oldest burying ground in Loudon is in the south-eastern section of the town, and the grave-stone, bearing the earliest date, is dated 1774, though doubtless several persons had been interred there years before.

The oldest road in the town was one running from Blanford, through the south part of Loudon, past the old burying ground, and passing through the north part of Sandisfield, through Tyringham to Great Barrington. This was called the great road from Boston to Albany.

The town of Loudon must have been settled slowly; for in the year 1781 the town was classed to raise three soldiers for the American army, and the names of those from whom they were to be taken, are given, and are only forty-seven in number.

Bethlehem began to be settled several years after Loudon. The proprietors being non-residents, either gave farms to certain individuals, to promote settlements in the place, or else sold their lands, at first, at a low price, for the same reason.

The names of some of the first settlers were Thomas Ward, Daniel Sumner, Phineas Kingsbury, John Plumbe, Adonijah Jones, Ebenezer Jones, Miles Jones, James Breakenridge, John Spear, and Robert Hunter. The Joneses came from Palmer, Mass., as did J. Breakenridge and J. Spear. The Joneses, however, originated in Hebron, (Andover Society,) Con. The subsequent inhabitants who moved into the district, came principally from Connecticut.

In June, 1809, the district of Bethlehem was united with the town of Loudon, the town still bearing the name of Loudon. At a town meeting, holden in May, 1810, it was proposed to have the name of the town altered, and called Mountville, or by some other name, at the discretion of P. Larkeom, Esq., then representative at the General Court; and in June he obtained for it the name of Otis, in honor of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. Harrison G. Otis, of Boston.

It appears in the early records of the town of Loudon, that money was usually voted each year to hire preaching, and votes were passed from time to time to hold public worship, at some specified dwelling-house, or at a school-house.

About 1772, before the town was incorporated, a person came into it by the name of George Troop, pretending to be a candidate for the ministry, whom the inhabitants employed several years; though it appeared finally that he had no license to preach. On a certain occasion, some of his hearers undertook to ordain him, and then he on his part undertook to form them into a church. When he had done that, he lead them to the choice of deacons. At length both the church and people lost their confidence in him. An ecclesiastical

council, convened in the early part of 1775, decided, that he had no authority to preach, or to organize a church, and that his church was not a regular church of Christ. In 1776, Mr. Troop had an opportunity to go into the army of the United States; and a vote of the town, passed on the 28th of August in that year, shows the feelings which the inhabitants then entertained concerning him: "Whereas the Assembly assigned Mr. Troop to preach in this town for five years, in consideration of a grant of land to him, for settlement, and the term is not and will not be expired until April next, yet by reason of some disquietudes, which render his labours among us not so serviceable; and he being invited in the common cause; where possibly he might be more serviceable; by the consent of those who hold themselves the church, we as the town vote a discharge and dismission, as fully and freely declaring ourselves as fully satisfied, as if he had staid and preached out the full term of the said five years." As for the land mentioned in this vote, it is said Mr. Troop never obtained a title to it. He went into the army, with the view of officiating as a chaplain; and his church separated and was dissolved.

Before this time, however, a committee of the town employed a Mr. Woodbridge as a candidate.

On the 2d of February, 1779, a regular church was formed, consisting of 7 members, 4 males and 3 females.

After this, money was raised by the town, from time to time, to hire preaching, and some unsuccessful attempts were made to settle a minister. Neighbouring pastors also occasionally gave their labours, administered the ordinances, and admitted members to the church. In 1805, a candidate by the name of Roger Adams was employed, and a considerable revival took place under his preaching, as the fruits of which, thirty-two members were added to the church in that year. The whole number of members admitted to this church from its organization up to June 5, 1810, when Bethlehem church was united with it, is 101.

The Bethlehem church was organized Sept. 14, 1795, of 8 members, 5 males and 3 females. The inhabitants of the district usually raised a small sum annually

to hire preaching; and neighbouring pastors, here as well as in Loudon, occasionally performed labours of love. Small accessions were made to the church from time to time. The number received from its organization (so far as the records show) up to the time of the union, was 33.

With respect to this union, it may be proper to say, that at a conference of these churches, holden on the 5th day of June, 1810, it was mutually agreed, and voted by the members, to become one church—to consider all the members of each church, as members of the united church, and to embrace for their confession and covenant, the same that were adopted by the church of Loudon, Sept. 24th, 1801.

No house of public worship was ever completed in Loudon. Different attempts, however, were made for the purpose. There was a proposition to obtain assistance from inhabitants of Blanford, by getting a part of that town annexed to Loudon. This failing, a place deemed central for the town was fixed upon for a house of worship, and a vote passed to build, and to raise $1000 for the purpose. But at a subsequent meeting, it was voted not to empower the constable to collect the money, and the measure failed. This took place in 1806. Soon after, a United Congregational Society, of inhabitants of Loudon and Bethlenem, was formed and incorporated, who engaged in building a meeting-house, which should be central to the town and district. In consequence of this, the inhabitants in the southern section of Loudon, united with sundry inhabitants of Blanford in building a house of worship, by subscription; the house being intended to be free for different denominations. The house was raised, and partly finished, when in the course of 1808, it was burnt, as is supposed, by the hand of an incendiary.

The United Society of the town of Loudon and district of Bethlehem, agreed upon the place for building, and procured timber for a house of worship, before the union of the town and district in 1809. When this had taken place, the town appointed a committee to fix upon a place, and report a plan for building. They reported in favour of the same place which had been before chosen by the society, and proposed that the house should

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF RICHMOND;

BY REV. EDWIN W. DWIGHT.

---

THIS township was first purchased of two chiefs or sachems of the Stockbridge tribe of Indians, about the year 1763. The names of the chiefs were *Ephraim* and *Yokun*.

It appears that by a resolve of the General Court, passed Feb. 17th, of that year, the purchase was confirmed to the several proprietors, on condition of their paying a stipulated sum of money to the Indians, and performing certain "*settling duties*"; which duties were, that the purchasers should, in the space of five years from the time of passing the resolve, have fifty settlers residing within the limits of Mount Ephraim and Yokuntown, (now Richmond and Lenox,) who should each have a dwelling-house of certain dimensions and seven acres of land, well cleared, fenced and tilled; and that they should have settled among them, within the time specified, a learned Protestant minister of the gospel. The purchase was made under the agency of Samuel Brown, Jr. Esquire, of Stockbridge.

It was bounded as follows: On the west by the province line of Massachusetts, separating it from the State of New York; north by Pittsfield, and the province-lands, now called Hancock; east by the Housatonic river; and south by Stockbridge and public ministerial grants. These boundaries included the present townships of Richmond and Lenox. The consideration for the purchase was the sum of £1700.

After the purchasers had obtained a grant from the Legislature confirming their purchase, they found themselves in an embarrassed situation, in regard to bringing forward their settlement.

They were not empowered to levy and collect taxes on their lands, either for the purpose of building a house for public worship, settling a minister, or making and repairing roads. But at the session of the General Court in January, 1764, they obtained an act authorizing them to levy and collect taxes for these purposes.

After having their powers enlarged, they called their first meeting on the 17th day of April of the same year, at the house of John Chamberlain in Mount Ephraim. At this meeting, Timothy Woodbridge, Esq., of Stockbridge, was chosen moderator, and Samuel Brown, Jr. Esq., was chosen clerk, and sworn. Samuel Brown, Esq., of Stockbridge, Capt. Charles Goodrich, of Pittsfield. Capt. Thomas North and Micah Mudge, of Mt. Ephraim, and Mr. Jacob Bacon, of Yokuntown, were chosen a committee to lay out, and make and repair highways within the bounds of said purchase. Elijah Williams, Esq., of West Stockbridge, was chosen treasurer, and sworn. After thus organizing their meeting, they made a grant of £25, to be assessed on the rights of the proprietors, for the purpose of hiring preaching, and appointed a committee to procure a preacher.

On the 25th of May following, another meeting of the proprietors was called, to see if they would agree to build a meeting-house in Mt. Ephraim and another in Yokuntown; at which time they agreed to build one in each part of the township, of the following dimensions, viz. 45 feet in length and 35 in breadth.

They also granted a tax of twenty shillings on each hundred acres of land, to defray the expense of building said houses; and ordered the money to be paid into the treasury in eight months.

The proprietors also proceeded to choose a committee to superintend the erection of both houses. The committee for Mt. Ephraim were, Messrs. John Slosson, John Chamberlain, Ichabod Wood, Elijah Brown, and Thomas North. The committee for Yokuntown were, Messrs. Stephen Nash, Jacob Bacon, Charles Goodrich, Solomon Gleazen, and James Richards.

On June 20th, 1765, the township was by the Legislature incorporated under the name of *Richmond*, (after the Duke of Richmond) "with all the powers, privileges, and immunities, which towns in this Government have, and do enjoy."

In the year 1766, a great part of the roads in the town were laid out and opened. They were laid out with great regularity, and in an unusual number; intersecting each other at right angles, and running nearly east and west, north and south. The meeting-houses were now advancing; were occupied; and more money was granted to procure preaching.

In the year 1767, (Feb. 26) this town was divided by an act of the Legislature, and the easterly part was called Lenox; which was the family name of the Duke of Richmond.

At the division of the town, 1900 acres of land of the Yokun purchase were annexed to the Mt. Ephraim purchase, in order that the dividing line between the two towns might be on the mountain which separates them. This line is now a very irregular one.

From this time, the two towns have enjoyed their separate interests and privileges.

After this division, Richmond was reduced to about four miles square, and is now bounded as follows: North by Hancock and Pittsfield; east by Lenox; south by Stockbridge and West Stockbridge; and west by the State of New York. The east and west lines are on mountains, ranging about north, 20 deg. east.

The tract of country between the mountains is a pleasant and fertile valley, averaging about three miles in width, enclosed by hills on the east and west, commanding delightful prospects. This tract of land being almost exclusively fit for cultivation, was soon cleared of its enormous load of timber, and converted into delightful and productive fields.

Wheat was produced in abundance, yielding often from thirty to forty bushels to the acre. Indian corn, oats, flax, barley, &c., yielded luxuriant crops. Rye is now cultivated in general instead of wheat, though the latter is still raised in some cases with good success.

The soil of Richmond has a large mixture of clay and gravel. In some parts of the town, clay is found in such

abundance as to admit of brick being furnished in sufficient quantities, it is supposed, for all the purposes of building, and other uses to which brick are generally applied. Brick has been made for many years, though not in large quantities.

There are in the easterly part of the town, quarries of excellent limestone, from which lime has been furnished for the supply of the inhabitants; and to a considerable extent, of other towns in the vicinity, and for transportation to distant markets.

Beds of iron ore are found in the south part of the town, yielding ore of an excellent quality, which have been improved to good advantage for more than half a century. A new bed has recently been discovered in the east part of the town, which it is thought will prove very productive. The ore from the beds already wrought has been generally carried to the furnaces at Lenox and Lee. A furnace is now contemplated, and will probably soon be erected, on a stream in the south-west part of this town, by Messrs. Coffin & Holley, of Salisbury, Con.; by whom a site has been purchased, which has been occupied as a mill-seat by Capt. Russell Griffin.

Marble, of a superior quality for *building*, though not susceptible of the highest polish, is likewise found in abundance.

Fruit trees, such as apples, pears, cherries, quinces, and plums, flourish in this town.

There is a kind of yellow clay, found on the farms of John and Zebulon Bacon, which has been improved for *crucibles* for the use of silversmiths, to good purpose, and may be found adapted to more important uses.

There are no large streams in the town. But two or three streams rise within the limits of the town, of such a size that useful mills have been erected upon them. At present there are two grist-mills, three saw-mills, two fulling-mills, two carding-machines, and a woollen factory of considerable importance. This factory has recently been erected by an individual, on a small stream, promising but a doubtful supply of water. But by care in the construction of the dam, and more especially by introducing a water-wheel of unusual size,

power is furnished sufficient for the operation of extensive machinery.

A large and profitable tannery has for a long course of years, until January, 1826, been conducted here by Capt. Nathan Pierson. Since his death, in that year, it has been discontinued. There are two other tanneries, in which considerable business is now done.

This township is best adapted to agriculture; and in this the inhabitants are almost universally employed. As a farming township, it possesses, in rather an unusual degree, both beauty and fertility. An intelligent gentleman, who had spent many years in foreign countries, after passing through this town, and viewing the valley from a hill on the west, observed, that in *natural scenery* it excelled the view from the famous *Richmond Hill* in England.

Should public improvements be such as to furnish facilities for the transportation of produce from inland towns to distant markets, it is believed that few towns in the State would be likely to be rendered more beautiful and productive than this.

The kinds of timber which prevail here, as in this vicinity generally, are maple, beech, birch, (black and white,) chesnut, ash, oak, pine, &c. Maple may be considered as abounding. Many farmers obtain nearly their whole supply of sugar from this tree.

The settlement of this town commenced in 1760. In the summer of that year, Capt. Micah Mudge moved his family to this place, and settled in the south part of the town, near the north line of Stockbridge. This was the first white family settled here. Elizabeth Mudge was the first white child born in the town.

Some time in the course of the following autumn, Mr. Ichabod Wood moved his family to this town, and settled on a farm upon which the Congregational meeting-house now stands. Mr. Wood, it is believed, removed from Rehoboth in this State. These two families remained alone in the wilderness, through a long and gloomy winter. Situated as they were, about three miles apart, they did not see each other (as tradition relates) for several months.

In the summer of 1761, several families moved to *this place*, viz. Elijah and Isaac Brown, John Cham-

berlain, David Pixley, Joseph Patterson, and Daniel, Timothy, and Aaron Rowley, who generally settled in the south and west parts of the town. In 1762, Joseph and Paul Raymond, and John and Daniel Slosson, the two latter from Kent, Con., moved in, and some others. From this time, the settlement advanced rapidly, until every part of the town was inhabited.*

In 1763 and 1764, the families of Prince and Jonathan West, from Tolland, Con., and Jacob Redington, from Tolland, Stephen Benton, from Salisbury, and John Higby, from Canaan, and in 1765, John Bacon, who was also from Canaan, settled here. From this period until the year 1774 or 1775, the following persons became settlers: (those which are first named, came here in the early part of this period,) viz. David Rosseter, from Guilford, Nathan Pierson, from Long Island, Simeon and Elijah Tracy, from Preston, Ezekiel Olmsted, from Norwalk, Ebenezer and Ephraim Welch from Norwich, Eliphalet Redington, from Tolland, Silas and Aaron Parmelee, from Guilford, Edward Robinson and Samuel Fitch, from Stonington, Vine Branch, from Preston, Samuel Comstock Betts, from Wilton, David and Parker Stevens, and John Nichols, from North Killingworth, Benjamin Reeve, from Litchfield, Abel Harrison, from Litchfield S. F., Samuel Hackley, from Norwich, Benjamin Pierson, from Long Island, Benjamin Merriman, from North Guilford, William and John Lusk, from Newington, James Ford, from Norwich, Isaac Tilden, Con., Joseph and Samuel Cogswell, from Southington, Daniel Hatch, from Lebanon, Con., Alexander Gaston, from Salisbury, Amos and Daniel Rathbun, from Stonington, John and David Williams, from East Haddam, Thomas Scott and Daniel Hand, from Long Island, Abner West, from Tolland. Isaac Cook, from Goshen, John Dudley, from Guilford.

The church was formed in Richmond about the year 1765. In that year, the Rev. Job Swift, afterwards the minister of Bennington, was settled as their pastor.

* The names of early settlers, and accurate dates, it has been difficult to ascertain, in consequence of the earliest Town Records having been destroyed in the burning of the house of Mr. John Slosson, the Town Clerk, about the year 1775.

Mr. Swift was an able and faithful minister of the gospel. The following is an extract from the obituary notice of this excellent man:

"Mr. Swift was born at Sandwich, Mass., on the 17th day of June, 1743. While he was very young, his father removed to Kent, in Connecticut. He became a member of Yale College, in 1761. His mind, at college, became deeply impressed with the subject of religion, while studying the writings of President Edwards. He was graduated in 1765. Mr. Swift was endowed by nature with such distinguished talents, as would have enabled him to appear with the highest reputation in any profession. From motives of duty, he chose the ministry; and was assisted in his preparatory studies by the Rev. Dr. Bellamy, of whom he ever afterwards retained a profound esteem.

He was little more than twenty-two years of age, when he became a preacher of the gospel. In 1767, he was ordained over the church and people in Richmond, Mass., where he laboured about seven years. His prospects of usefulness in this place were for a time favorable.

That he might more readily lead the minds of his people to a proper understanding of the Christian doctrines, he lent his aid in favour of religious conferences, in which questions on doctrinal subjects were freely discussed. By his unwearied exertions, a great part of his people in a short time became well indoctrinated, and some few of them the hopeful subjects of gospel grace. But the scene was soon changed, and he had to encounter those afflictive difficulties which so often fall to the lot of the faithful ministers of Christ. The difficulties arose solely from his strict and conscientious adherence to what he judged divine truth.

Having set himself for the defence of the gospel of Christ, he could not be persuaded to accommodate himself to the feelings of those who opposed it in its true form. This served but to increase their dissatisfaction, and they at length declared themselves irreconcileable; and he was soon dismissed from his pastoral charge."* This took place in the year 1774.

* Swift's Life and Sermons.

After his dismission from Richmond, Mr. Swift preached in various places for several years, until he was called to settle in Bennington, Vermont, where he continued about sixteen years.

It was while at this place, it is believed, that he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Williams College, and became a member of its corporation.

From Bennington, Dr. Swift removed to Addison, a town which had long been in a divided and unhappy state. But soon after his residence among them, their moral and religious character was greatly changed. A church was formed, which soon consisted of a respectable number. Every thing began to wear a promising appearance, when Dr. Swift, in the abundance of his apostolic zeal, undertook, at his own expense, with the consent of his people, a mission into the northern part of the State. While on that service, he died, at Enosburgh, on the 20th of October, 1804, having passed his 60th year.

From this last act of his life, in connexion with his previous activity and usefulness as a minister of Christ, he received the appellation of "the apostle of Vermont." "His zeal for the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom was ardent and constant, and in the death of no other man could the churches of Vermont have sustained, in human estimation, a greater loss."*

President Dwight says, "Doctor Swift was one of the best and most useful men whom I ever knew. He possessed an understanding naturally vigorous, respectable learning, sound theological opinions, eminent prudence, and distinguished zeal, combined in the happiest manner with moderation, benevolence and piety. Good men loved him and delighted in his society; and the worst men acknowledged his worth. To the churches and ministers of Vermont, he was a patriarch: and wherever he was known, he is remembered with the highest veneration."†

After the death of Dr. Swift, a volume of his sermons was published in duodecimo, in 1805.

* Allen's Biographical Dictionary.
† Dwight's Travels, vol. ii. p. 443.

But as the author was not in the habit of fully writing his sermons, they were published in an imperfect state. They exhibit, however, marks of a vigorous and discriminating mind, and of a heart devoted to the glory of God and the good of men.

After the removal of Mr. Swift from Richmond, the town was about ten years destitute of a settled minister; but for the greater part of this time it was provided with the preaching of the gospel. Among those who preached with acceptance and apparent success during this period, were Rev. Abraham Camp, from Norfolk, Elisha Parmelee, from Goshen, and Jacob Wood.

In the early part of the year 1784, application was made to the Rev. David Perry, (who had recently been dismissed from Harwinton in Connecticut,) to preach in this place. With this request he complied, and was installed on the 25th of August following. Immediately after the settlement of Mr. Perry, the controversies that had existed, seemed to subside. The people were happy in their pastor, and he in them; and for about thirty years he continued with them, an active, laborious, and successful minister.

Several revivals of religion took place in connexion with his faithful labours, and considerable additions were frequently made to the church. The largest additions, within a short period, were in the years 1804 and 1809. In the first instance, between twenty and thirty were received, and in the last about forty. The whole number admitted under his ministry was about 186; the whole number baptized, 377.

Mr. Perry was dismissed on the 1st day of January, 1816. His health had for several years been declining; and under the infirmities of age, and a severe local disease,* he had been unable to preach, but irregularly, for two years or more before his dismission. He died on the 7th day of June, 1817, aged 71.

The religious character of Mr. Perry was such as to furnish a bright example to every gospel minister. He was eminent for his expressions and daily exhibitions of piety, and eminently devoted and faithful as a minister of Christ. In one of the last days of his life, in the

* The ossification of an artery.

midst of severe pains and almost dying agonies, he called his children and grand children around his bed, and putting his hand upon the head of each of them successively, offered a short and comprehensive prayer for each, commending them all *to the God of Jacob. Israel's* God has not forgotten to be gracious to his descendants.

After the dismission of Mr. Perry, this people remained destitute of a settled minister three years. In this time they were favoured with the preaching of several individuals, whose labours, in some instances, were greatly blessed to the conversion of souls. In the year 1818, under the preaching of Mr. Anson S. Atwood, who was afterwards settled at Mansfield, Con. the church enjoyed a season of peculiar *refreshing from the presence of the Lord.*

The present pastor of the church, Rev. Edwin W. Dwight, was ordained Jan. 13, 1819.

Since his settlement, besides other instances of more than usual attention to the subject of religion, the church has been blessed with two general revivals. As the fruit of these, principally, and in part of the previous revival, one hundred and twenty-nine have been added to the church. The church now consists of about 200 members.

The first of the two revivals alluded to, commenced in March, 1820, and continued through the spring and the principal part of the summer. The second commenced in the fall of 1826, and continued through the succeeding winter and spring. In promoting this, the faithful labours of Mr. Solomon J. Tracy, a candidate for the ministry, who had recently completed his theological studies at Andover, were gratefully acknowledged by the pastor and people, and appear to have been greatly blessed by the Head of the Church.

The present Congregational meeting house in this town was built in the years 1794 and 1795. It is a large and well constructed house, and is furnished with an excellent bell. Its dimensions are 65 feet by 50, with a porch or projection of 8 feet by 27. The cost of the house was about $4000.

The Methodist society have a neat and convenient house of worship, of smaller size, which was built in 1825.

There is no other house of worship, and no society of any other denomination. There are two families of Baptists, and two or three individuals in addition, connected with the Baptist church.

The rise of the Methodist denomination, it is believed, was about the year 1786 or 1787.

The following is a list of deacons in the Congregational church:

Silas Parmelee; elected about 1767; died Sept. 8, 1776, aged 50.

James Gates, Esq.; do. Feb. 21, 1785; died Jan. 4, 1805. aged 84.

John Hall; elected Feb. 21, 1785; removed to Sullivan, N. Y.

William Osborn; removed to Lisle, N. Y.

John Gaston; elected Feb. 24, 1802.

Noah Rossiter, Esq.; elected July 2, 1807; resigned 1821.

Ebenezer Hotchkin; do. do.

Zebulon Bacon; elected Oct. 1821.

Samuel Bartlett; do. June 11, 1827.

*Justices of the Peace*

Deacon James Gates; died Jan. 4, 1805, aged 84.

Gen. David Rossiter; died March 8, 1811, aged 75.

Hon. Nathaniel Bishop; died Feb. 1, 1826, aged 75.

William Lusk; removed to Canaan, N. Y.

Zechariah Pierson; died Nov. 15, 1827, aged 77.

Dr. Hugo Burghardt; died Oct. 18, 1822, aged 53.

Noah Rossiter.

A. Ford; removed to Berkshire, N. Y.

John Bacon.

Wm. S. Leadbetter.

Several men in this town have been distinguished for their public services, who may here be noticed.

James Gates, Esq., removed from East Haddam, Con., about the year 1771 or 1772.

He had held the office of deacon in the church at East Haddam, from the year 1762 until his removal; and in the year 1785 was here appointed to the same office, which he held until his death, at the age of 84.

As a justice of the peace, as a representative in the State Legislature, to which he was often appointed, and

in various capacities in which he acted as a friend and father of the town, he was greatly honoured with the esteem and confidence of the people.

Gen. David Rossiter removed from North Guilford to Richmond, in its early settlement, and soon became an active and influential inhabitant of the town, and filled many of its most important offices.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary war, being the captain of a company of militia, he marched with a company of minute men to Cambridge, to assist in repelling the enemy, immediately after the battle of Lexington.

He rose in regular gradation from that capacity to the rank of a Brigadier-General. In military, as well as in civil life, he was held in high respect. He was often elected to represent the town in the Legislature of the State, and was twice chosen as a member of the Senate. Few men, perhaps, in the County in which he resided have commanded more universal respect, and no inhabitant of this town has been more active in promoting its interests.

General Rossiter was not a professor of religion; but acted uniformly and decidedly in favour of its institutions, and is considered as having done much to promote their establishment and continuance in this place. He died March 8, 1811, at the age of 75.

The Hon. Nathaniel Bishop was born at Guilford, Con., June 13, 1751. He removed to Richmond in the year 1777. Although a modest and retiring man, his talents and integrity soon became known, and the town made great demands upon him for his services. As a member of the Legislature, as a justice of the peace, and in other offices, he possessed in a great degree the confidence of the people. For nearly 30 years he held the office of Register of Probate for the County. The duties of this office he performed with great punctuality and accuracy until his age and infirmities induced him to resign it

He was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Sessions in 1795, and continued in this office until the year 1811. For several years he was Chief Justice of the Court of Sessions.

In his private character, Judge Bishop exhibited interesting and amiable qualities. He was a tender and

affectionate husband and father, and an ardent and devoted friend. Several years before his death, h became a firm believer in the doctrines of the Christian religion, cordially embraced the faith of the Fathers of New England, and in the hope that he had become interested by grace in the benefits of a Saviour's death, made profession of his faith, and became united with the Cong egational church, March 6. 1825.

He died, after years of severe suffering, Feb. 1, 1826, aged 75.

Very little support has been given to gentlemen in the profession of law in this town since its settlement. One or two individuals had a short residence here about the year 1800.

In 1821, Henry W Bishop, Esq., a son of the Hon. Nathaniel Bishop. who had been graduated at Williams College, established himself in this town; and remained here, employed in the duties of his profession, and usefully devoted to various public services, until, receiving the appointment of Register of Probate, he removed to Lenox in the fall of 1826.

The following is a list of physicians who have practised in this town since its settlement:

Thomas Tarbell; from Bridgehampton, L. Island; died at Canaan, N. Y., about the year 1775.

Ephraim Crocker; from Colchester; moved from this town after a few years.

John Crocker; from Barnstable; educated at Harvard College; died at Richmond, May 1, 1815, at the age of 95.

Richard Tidmash, an Englishman; removed to Stockbridge.

Joseph Clark; from Springfield; removed to Vermont.

Aaron Field.

H. o Burghardt; was born at Great Barrington; received his education at Yale College; pursued his professional studies with Dr. Erastus Sergeant, of Stockbridge, and commenced the practice of medicine in Richmond in the year 1790. He practised with great success and high reputation in this town and vicinity, until about the year 1820. He died October 18, 1822.

Joseph Waldo; came to this town from West Stockbridge about the year 1794; practised several years, and removed to Berkshire, N. Y.

Beriah Bishop; son of Nathaniel Bishop, Esq., of this town; received his medical education principally at Hanover, under Dr. Nathan Smith; commenced practice here in 1803, in connexion with Dr. Burghardt, and died August 17, 1805, at the age of 27.

Luke Dewey; a native of G. Barrington; practised in this town several years, and then removed to the State of New York.

John Merriman; a native of Richmond; removed to this town from New Lebanon in October, 1822, and remained here until the spring of 1827, when he removed to Chatham, N. Y.

The present physician is Dr. George Landon, who is a native of Sheffield. He studied medicine under the direction of Dr. Burghardt, and for a time, at the medical school at New Haven; commenced practice at Great Barrington in 1820, and came to this town in the of 1826.

This town has been distinguished for the longevity of its inhabitants, and the general prevalence of health. From Jan. 1, 1818, to Jan. 1, 1828, there were 105 deaths; of which, 4 were of persons over 90; 23 (including the previous number,) over 80; 38 over 70, and 48 over 60.

There are four burying places in Richmond: one near the south line of the town, on the road leading from the meeting-house to West Stockbridge; one in the north-east part of the town, on the road leading to Pittsfield; another near the centre, a little distance north of the Congregational meeting-house, and a fourth in the north part of the town, near the Shaker village. These were laid out in the early settlement of the town.

There are five school districts, the *Centre*, *North*, *North-East*, *South-East*, and *South-West*; with an average number of scholars, in all the winter schools, of about one hundred and seventy-five. It is thought just to say, that particular care is taken in the selection and examination of teachers; and that more than usual attention is paid by the visiting committee, consisting of

one from each district, to the examination and improvement of the schools.

A select school has been supported here during a portion of some past years, with good success, and with much benefit to the town.

There is a post-office in this town, which was established in 1806. The first post-master was Mr. Cyprian Branch. He was succeeded by Nathan Pierson, Esq., who held the office until his removal from town in October, 1823; when the appointment was given to Mr. Benjamin Cone; but in consequence of an exchange of property with a brother, the appointment was soon transferred to Mr. Asa Cone, who now holds the office.

There are in this place four stores and two public houses.

The trade of the town is principally with Pittsfield, (6 miles distant,) Hudson, Kinderhook, Albany, and New York.

The number of inhabitants by the last census was 940, the number of families is one hundred and fifty. Of these, about one hundred may be considered as belonging to the Congregational society, from thirty to thirty-five to the Methodists, and two or three families are of the Baptist denomination.

A valuable library, consisting of little less than 300 volumes, was established in the year 1790, and for twenty-five years was read with great advantage to the people. In 1815, for reasons thought sufficient by a part of the proprietors, and not so by others, that association was dissolved, and the books were sold.

In 1821, another library was formed, which is still small, consisting of but seventy or eighty volumes; but provision has recently been made for enlarging it, and it is hoped that it will soon become respectable and useful.

A Sabbath School library has existed for three or four years, and has already been very useful. It now consists of two hundred and twenty-seven volumes.

Several benevolent societies exist here, some of which have been in operation for many years. The first, it is believed, that was formed, was the Female

Cent Society, which has regularly contributed to the funds of the Berk. and Col. Miss. Society.

In 1819, a Female Education Society was formed; which, though less efficient now than formerly, has contributed to some extent every year for the support of young men preparing for the ministry.

In September, 1819, the church resolved itself into a Foreign Mission Society, and continued to give their aid annually to the American Board, until the formation of the Foreign Mission Associations throughout the State, when it became united with them.

These associations now exist here. There are also associations of young persons, formed on a similar plan, in 1826, which contribute in articles of clothing for the same purpose.

Besides these, auxiliary Bible and Tract Societies have been established within the two or three past years.

The ability of those who devote a portion of their substance to benevolent purposes in this place, is not great, nor their number very large; but a commendable amount has been contributed for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom; and the fathers of this settlement have doubtless realized their reward, in the piety and usefulness of their descendants, for their exertions and sacrifices to provide the privileges of the gospel for themselves and their children.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF LENOX.

BY REV. SAMUEL SHEPARD, D. D.

---

The Indian name of that part of the town lying north of a line running east and west near the Congregational meeting-house, was originally called Yokun, after an Indian of some distinction, of that name. The tract of land, lying west of the west mountain, was called Mt. Ephraim. These two tracts were at first incorporated into a town by the name of Richmond, probably after the Duke of Richmond. The tract lying east of the mountain, together with lands, known by the names of Dwight's, Williams, and the south-west part of Hartwood's grant, was afterwards incorporated into a town, and called Lenox, the family name of the Duke of Richmond. This town is bounded on the north by Pittsfield; on the south by Stockbridge and Lee; on the east by Washington, and west by Richmond. Its length from north to south is about six miles; and its breadth on the north, about five miles, and on the south line it is probably less than three miles.

The land, in the north and west parts, is hilly, in some parts, stony; in some, broken and of little value.

The soil is more favorable generally to grass, than the culture of grain In the north-east and south-west parts, there is some excellent grain land. In the east part, adjoining the Housatonic river, there are some excellent meadows. The town abounds in limestone, and furnishes lime in considerable quantities for market in other places. In the north part of the town, a mill has

been erected by Col. Nathan Barrett, for the purpose of sawing marble, which is found in its vicinity, of different kinds, and of a superior quality, and which is wrought by him in the neatest manner, and for various uses.

In the west part of the town, iron ore is found in great abundance. From discoveries already made, it is probable a bed of this ore extends nearly through the town from west to east, and is inexhaustible. About 1780, a furnace was erected in the south-east part of the town, on the Housatonic river, by Mr. Job Gilbert, from the county of Bristol, in which, business has been carried on to this time, and frequently with much profit to its successive owners. Ore, for the supply of this furnace, has been dug in the west part of the town, and an abundance of coal is furnished from the forests in the west part of Washington. The ore is of an excellent quality, and is used for all the variety of castings common to such furnaces. Large quantities of pig iron, are also sent from this furnace to distant markets. Although this town is well watered, yet there are in it no streams of much note, excepting the Housatonic river, which runs through the town from north to south, on the east side of it. On this river are no very advantageous mill-sites, in its course through the town, excepting in the south-east part, where there is the furnace just mentioned, a woollen factory, a grist-mill, an oil-mill, a saw-mill, two clothiers' shops, a blacksmith's shop, &c. There is but one pond in the town, and that an inconsiderable one, quite in the south part, usually called Scott's pond.

The first inhabitant of this town, was Mr. Jonathan Hinsdale. He came from Hartford, Con., in 1750, and built a small house on the east side of the County road, about fifty rods south of Court House hill. In the spring following, a man by the name of Cooper, built a house in the south part of the town, on the west side of the present County road. Another man, by the name of Dickinson, soon after built a house on the same side of the road, north of Mr. Hinsdale's. In 1755, these, with some other families in this vicinity and in Pittsfield, removed to Stockbridge, through fear of the Indians, who were instigated to hostilities by the French

in Canada. About this time, a family in Stockbridge was attacked by the Indians, and a man killed by them, on the Sabbath, while the people generally were attending public worship. And while the few families, north of Stockbridge, were fleeing to that place for safety, a man by the name of Stephens, while passing a ledge of rocks in the south part of the town, was shot by the Indians, and fell dead from his horse. The horse was also killed; but a woman, who was on the horse with Mr. Stephens, by the aid of Mr. Hinsdale, escaped unhurt.

The man who first cleared a spot of ground for the purpose of making a settlement in the north part of the town, was Jacob Bacon. He lived on the hill west of the County road; and in that neighborhood, Messrs. Hunt, McCoy, Glezen, and Steel, afterwards settled. About that time, a man by the name of Waterman, built a house in quite the north part of the town. On what is now called the East street, families by the name of Root, Miller, and Dewey, were the first inhabitants; and where the village now is, Whitlocke Parker, and Richards; and in the west part, Collins, Treat, Andrus, Wright, and others. A majority of the families who first settled in the town, emigrated from West Hartford and Wallingford, Con.

Lenox was incorporated in 1767, and the grants of land, already mentioned, lying in the south and south-east part of the town, were annexed in 1770. Many years afterwards, a small tract of land, taken from Washington, was added to the north-east part of Lenox.

The first town officers were chosen March 5th, 1767. The inhabitants being at that time considerable in number, soon made laudable efforts for the settlement of a gospel minister; and on the 10th of October, 1770, Rev. Samuel Monson, of New Haven, Con., who was graduated at Yale College in 1763, was unanimously invited to take the pastoral charge of the church and congregation, and was ordained on the 8th of November following. The church was organized in 1769, by Rev. Samuel Hopkins, then of Great Barrington; and has now the same confession of faith and form of covenant, which was then adopted. The male members re-

ceived into the church, at the time of its organization, were nine in number, and by the names of Collins, Tracy, Stanley, Hinsdale, Steel, Bacon, Andrus, Landers, and Richards. Soon after the settlement of a minister, a house for public worship was erected, near the spot where the present Congregational meeting-house now stands, and was occupied till Jan. 1, 1806, when the present one was publicly dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. The first burying-ground was more than a mile north of the village, and west of the County road. Soon after the first house for public worship was built, a piece of ground near it was marked out for a grave-yard. It has since been enlarged, and is now the principal burying place in the town. It is enclosed by a neat fence, and is noticeable for the large number of highly polished marble monuments which it contains. There is also a small grave-yard in the north-east part of the town, enclosed by a handsome wall.

The land, for the accommodation of the town, as to a meeting-house and burying ground, was given for that specific purpose, by a Mr. Reynolds.

From the time of Mr. Munson's settlement in 1770, to that of his dismission in 1792, was 22 years. During that time, the church was not greatly increased in numbers, and contained but few more members at the close of his ministry, than at the beginning. He was a man of good abilities, of ardent piety, sound in the faith, and zealous in promoting the cause of the Redeemer; but he lived "in troublous times." The Revolutionary war occasioned very bitter animosities among the people; and subsequently, what is called the Shays insurrection, was productive of much evil in the town. Towards the close of his ministry, the moral and religious aspect of the place was gloomy. Mr. Munson's ill health, which finally occasioned his dismission, increased, and he became very inefficient in opposing the current of vice and irreligion, the progress of which he beheld with grief.

His successor, Rev. Samuel Shepard, D. D., was ordained April 30, 1795. The church was then in a low state. The number of male members was but fifteen. In 1799, there was a general revival of religion in the town. About 60 persons, as fruits of that revival, were

added to the church. In 1807, there was a partial revival of religion in the north-east part of the town, and a few persons were at that time hopefully brought into the kingdom of Christ. In 1808, God was in infinite mercy pleased to pour out his spirit upon the church and people, and to awaken, convince, and renew the hearts of many who had before lived in impenitency and unbelief. The number of persons received into the church soon after that revival, was 56. In 1815, the means of grace were again accompanied with saving efficacy, and 161 persons were added to the church. In 1820 a revival of religion commenced in the Sabbath School, which was for a little season, powerful; and 16 hopeful converts were the fruits of it. In the year 1821, there was a general revival, and 76 persons were added to the church. In 1826 and 7, the church and people were again blessed with a shower of divine grace, and the number of persons received into the church was 123. Others, who then, for the first time, cherished a hope of a personal interest in Christ, have not yet made a public profession of religion. The number of members in the church on the 1st of January last, was 408.

In this town there are also a few families of the Baptist denomination, and a few Methodists; neither of which have any house for public worship, nor stated preaching.

There has been an incorporated Episcopal society in the town, since 1805. This society, composed of members from this and the adjacent towns, has a handsome church, standing a few rods east of the Court House, and has, from the time of its organization, been supplied with preaching, by different ministers of its own denomination, probably half the time.

Lenox is the shiretown of Berkshire County. Its public buildings are a Court House, Gaol, and Gaol House, a Congregational church, an Episcopalian church, an Academy, and a Town House. In the village there is also a printing-office. The Court House is a spacious and elegant brick building, surpassed, probably, by few of the kind in New England. The other public edifices mentioned, are well built and commodious.

Lenox Academy was incorporated in 1803. Together with the act of incorporation, the Legislature made a grant of one half of a township of land in the State of Maine, belonging at that time to Massachusetts. This land, for a number of years, was wholly unproductive; but has recently been sold, and has produced a respectable fund, the avails of which are appropriated to the support of the Institution.

Mr. Levi Glezen, A. M., was the first preceptor, and continued to perform the duties of principal until April, 1823, when he accepted an invitation to take charge of a school in Kinderhook, in the State of New York. Under his superintendence, the Academy flourished, and obtained a merited celebrity.

After the removal of Mr. Glezen, the trustees appointed Mr. John Hotchkin as principal, who was at that time a member of the Theological Seminary at Andover. He is distinguished by talents for instruction and government, and possesses the full confidence of the trustees.

In this Academy, in addition to the common branches of English education, instruction is afforded in the languages and sciences generally; and also to those who are desirous of qualifying themselves as teachers of primary schools.

This institution is divided into two departments, both of which are under the superintendence of the principal. The present teacher in the second, or English department, is Mr. John L. Hunter, a gentleman well qualified for his station. The school is composed principally of scholars from abroad, and consists of youth of both sexes. Connected with the Academy, is a valuable library, containing between three and four hundred volumes of well chosen books. This Academy is in the centre of the County of Berkshire. The village in which it is located, is pleasant and healthful, and probably presents fewer temptations to vice and immorality, than almost any other place containing an equal population. The inhabitants are well informed, intelligent, and hospitable, and may with truth be said to be remarkable for their habits of industry, sobriety, morality, and order. In this school, many have been instructed, who, by successful application to study, have laid a good

foundation for future usefulness. In casting an eye over the catalogue of its former students, we notice with pleasure the names of many who have attained to distinction in the different learned professions, and as Judges of Courts, and members of State and National Legislatures. The first person who received a collegiate education, after pursuing his studies in this institution, preparatory to his admission to college, was the Hon. Samuel R. Betts, a Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York. The average number of students from the beginning, has been about 70.

The general appearance of Lenox, as it strikes the eye of a traveller, may be learned from Professor Silliman's description of it, in his Tour from Hartford to Quebec.

"Lenox, the capital of Berkshire County, is a town of uncommon beauty. It is built upon a hill on two streets, intersecting each other nearly at right angles. It is composed of handsome houses, which, with the exception of a few of brick, are painted of a brilliant white. It is ornamented with two neat houses for public worship, one of which is large and handsome, and stands upon a hill higher than the town, and a little removed from it. It has a Court House of brick, in a fine style of architecture; it is fronted with pillars, and furnished with convenient offices and a spacious court-room; this room is carpeted, and, what is more important, contains a library for the use of the bar. Lenox has fine mountain air, and is surrounded by equally fine mountain scenery. Indeed, it is one of the prettiest of our inland towns, and even in the view of an European traveller, (who had eyes to see any thing beautiful in what is unlike Europe,) it would appear like a gem among the mountains. I did not count the houses, but should think there might be one hundred houses, and stores, &c. White marble is often the material of their steps, foundations, and pavements." The population of Lenox is about 1400.

*Physicians.*

Eldad Lewis, Jonathan Bird. ——— Parker, Thaddeus Thompson, Charles Worthington, Daniel Comas, Robert Worthington, and John M. Brewster.

*Lawyers.*

Samuel Quincy, native of Boston, graduate of Harvard College 1782, died Jan. 19, 1816, aged 51; Elihan Stone, native of Stockbridge, admitted to the bar about 1793, removed to Cincinnati, Ohio; Eliab Brewer, native of Tyringham, graduate of Yale College 1793, admitted to the bar about 1796, died April 6, 1804, aged 34; Enoch W. Thayer, native of Ware; William H. Raymond, a native of Sheffield, admitted to the bar about 1797, died at Charleston, S. C.; William P. Walker, a native of Lenox, graduate of Williams College 1798, admitted to the bar in 1803; Joseph Tucker, native of Stockbridge, admitted to the bar in 1816; Henry W. Bishop, native of Richmond, graduate of Williams College 1817, admitted to the bar in 1821; George J. Tucker, graduate of Williams College 1822, admitted to the bar in 1825.

*Magistrates.*

William Walker, special justice, Judge of County Court and Judge of Probate, Dr. Eldad Lewis, John Stoughton, Azariah Eggleston, Enos Stone, Caleb Hyde, State senator, William P. Walker, State senator and Judge of Probate, Oliver Belden, Daniel Williams, Joseph Tucker, Levi Belden, Dr. Charles Worthington, Charles Mattoon, State senator, James W. Robbins, Caleb Belden.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON.

BY REV. CALEB KNIGHT.

---

In the years 1767 and 58, a company of gentlemen, living principally in Hartford and Suffield, Con., purchased this township of Robert Watson, of Sheffield, who, assisted by David Ingersoll, his attorney, persuaded them that he had obtained it from the Indians. In 1760, however, the proprietors ascertained that Watson was insolvent and in gaol, and that the Indian claim was but partially satisfied. They therefore found it expedient to re-purchase the township themselves. The Indians with whom they contracted, were Benjamin Kokhkewenaunaut, John Pophnehauauwah, and Robert Nunghauwot. The township, which before had been called Watsontown, now assumed the name of Greenock; and the proprietors made arrangements for occupying their lands: some actually settled upon them. The ten first settlers were, George Sloan, Andrew Mumford, William Mitekan, Elijah Crane, Amos Beard, William Beard, Joseph Knox, Nathan Ingraham, Joseph Chaplin, and Matthew De Wolf. But a new difficulty arose. The Province Authorities claimed a right to the township. In view of this difficulty, Nathaniel Hooker, John Townley, and Isaac Sheldon, of Hartford, in behalf of themselves and 57 others, proprietors, in the beginning of 1762, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to grant them the township; which was accordingly granted in February of the following year. From this time, until 1777, it was called Hartwood.

In the petition, the township was described as follows, viz. Beginning on the east side of Housatonic river, in the south line of Pittsfield, thence running east 19 deg. south 9 miles and an half; thence south 19 deg. west 720 rods to the north line of No. 4 township, [now Becket] thence west on said line 4 miles and 1 rod, to the north-west corner of said township; thence on the west line of said township south 9 deg. 25 min. west 2 miles and 4 rods to the north line of the township No. 1, [now Tyringham]; thence on said line west 2 deg. 30 min. south 3 miles to the north-easterly line of Great Barrington; thence north 40 deg. 40 min. east 1 mile and 4 rods to the north-east corner of said Great Barrington; thence bounding on the north line of said Great Barrington west 7 deg. 30 min. north 600 rods to the south-east corner of the Glass Works grant, (so called); thence on the east side of said grant 550 rods to the north-east corner of said grant and east side of Housatonic river first mentioned; thence bounding westerly on said river to the first mentioned bounds.

After these various delays and disappointments, the proprietors proceeded with greater vigor in the settlement. A road leading from Pittsfield to Becket was laid out through the town; and in laying out settling lots and other lots, land was reserved for roads in various places.

In laying out the land, one 63d part of the township, according to the order of the Legislature, was laid out for the first settled minister, one 63d part for the use of the ministry forever, and the like quantity for the use and support of a school. Upon his ordination, the first settled minister was of course entitled to his share. But the other lots have been so managed and disposed of, that the town has now no income from them.

In 1773, a meeting-house was built in the town, which stood nearly 20 years. It was struck with lightning, and considerably injured; and in 1792, the present house of worship was erected.

The town was incorporated by its present name, April 12, 1777, and the town of Lee was incorporated on the 21st of October following. The south-west part of Washington was taken to form the latter town, viz. the tract separated by the following line; beginning on

the west side of Becket, about a mile south of the north-west corner thereof, thence running north 3° ½ deg. west 454 rods; thence west 3° ½ deg. south 200 rods; thence north 3° ½ deg. west 1236 rods, to the east bank of the Housatonic river.

In 1802, another tract, about half a mile wide, lying on the east side of the Housatonic, and extending from Pittsfield to Lee, was annexed to Lenox. This tract is now sometimes called New Lenox.

Washington is situated on the Green Mountain range, on the height of land, 9 miles east of Lenox Court House, bordering on the county of Hampshire. Its greatest length from east to west is 8 or 9 miles, and its greatest breadth from north to south is about 7. It may be equal to a parallelogram, 7 miles by 5. The figure is very irregular, as in passing round the town there are 12 different lines and angles. It is bounded on the north by Dalton and Hinsdale; on the north-east by Peru; on the east by Middlefield; on the south by Becket; south-west by Lee; west by Lenox, and north-west by Pittsfield.

The surface is uneven, diversified by hills and vallies. It is well watered by springs and brooks of pure water. Though there are no large streams, there are some which furnish useful mill-sites. One, which rises in the north, passes through the east part of the town, and finds its way into Westfield river, has upon it 1 grist-mill, 2 saw-mills, and a clothier's works. In the west part of the town are three saw-mills, on streams which run into the Housatonic. There are three or four ponds in town. The largest of these, called Ashley pond, is a mile long and half a mile broad. A saw-mill stands on the outlet.

A small distance from this pond is a large bed of sand, which, when cleansed, is equal to well refined sugar in whiteness, and which might be manufactured, it is supposed, into the purest flint-glass.

Washington furnishes in every part good farms for grazing. The soil in general is too wet and cold for grain, though rye grows well on new land, and good crops of barley, oats and potatoes are raised. Several farms in the east part do well for corn, in favorable seasons. Most farmers raise sufficient wool for their fam-

lies, and numbers, considerable for market. Sugar is manufactured to some extent from the maple. In the north-eastern part, large quantities of lime are made. From the extensive forests which still remain in the south-western section of the town, large quantities of coal are annually burnt for the furnace in Lenox. In that section, also, there is much valuable spruce timber, from which many thousands of shingles are manufactured every year.

A considerable number of the principal farmers, a few years since, exchanged their improved farms in this place for new lands in Ohio, on the St. Lawrence in New York, and elsewhere, and removed; by which the population and property of the town have been diminished, and the church has suffered no inconsiderable loss. From 1810 to 1820, the population sunk from 949 to 750 souls. The number of inhabitants is not much greater now than at the last census. Most of these farms now belong to the State of Connecticut, or to gentlemen abroad, and are rented to tenants, who occupy them for limited periods. Were men of enterprize and piety to purchase them, and settle upon them, it would be a great blessing to the town.

We have 7 school-districts, with comfortable school-houses; besides which, there is a neighborhood denominated District No. 8, connected with a school-district in Hinsdale. Three hundred dollars are raised annually for the support of schools, by which the districts, as they furnish wood, and board the teachers themselves, are enabled to support a school about 7 months in a year. Increased attention is paid to the education of children and youth, and considerable improvement made.

The church was formed as early as the beginning of 1772. After two unsuccessful efforts to settle a pastor, the Rev. William Gay Ballantine was ordained pastor of the church and people June 15, 1774.

He was the son of the Rev. John Ballantine, of Westfield, and was graduated at Harvard College in 1771. He was respectable both as a scholar and divine, was evangelical in sentiment, and exemplary in all the relations of life. He settled here when the town was new, and submitted cheerfully to all the in-

conveniences of such a state, sympathized with the people in sorrow, and rejoiced with them in prosperity. Towards the close of his ministry he experienced many trials. Divisions were excited among the people, and some were led away by noise and passion. Numbers, dear to him, removed to the new settlements, and the church was diminished. Still, while strength remained, he continued to labour in the vineyard, warning and teaching the people, pleading the cause of Christ, and praying for the prosperity of Jerusalem. He preached until about 5 weeks before his death, which occurred on the 30th of November, 1820, in the 70th year of his age.

When Mr. Ballantine was ordained, the church was composed of 23 members. During his ministry, though there was no special revival, numbers were turned to the Lord, and 69 were added to the church from the world. Thirty more were added by letter. But so many of the people emigrated, that not more than 30 persons belonged to the church at his death.

From that time, until March, 1823, the church was vacant. The Great Shepherd, however, did not forget her; a season of refreshing was experienced, particularly in the east part of the town, and in 1821, 3, and in 1822, 14 made profession of christianity. These often speak of their first pastor with much tenderness of feeling, and regret that they so neglected his teaching while he lived.

March 5, 1823, the Rev. John A. Hempsted, from Hartford, Con., graduate of Yale College, was ordained pastor of the church, and dismissed March 17, 1826. In his ministry, 10 were added to the church by profession, and 4 by letter. But a number of the inhabitants lodged certificates and withdrew, and the society was weakened and disheartened.

In the autumn of 1826, the Rev. Caleb Knight, the present pastor, commenced his labours in this place. The church gave him a unanimous call to settle; the people stirred up one another to make exertion; some, who had withdrawn, returned to the society; a few others pledged themselves by subscription, in case of his settlement, to pay a certain sum annually during his ministry; and the Massachusetts Missionary Society

offered some aid. Thus encouraged, the society concurred unanimously in the call of the church, and he was installed on the 13th of Dec., 1826.

In the beginning of 1827, the Lord looked in mercy upon this remnant of his heritage; the Spirit was shed down, and from February to June was truly a reviving season. A considerable number expressed a hope that they had experienced renewing grace; and before the year closed, 23 made a public profession of their faith. On the 1st of January last, the church consisted of 70 members.

The society is small. But little more than one third part of the taxable property in town is taxed for the support of worship among the Congregationalists.

At an early period, a Baptist church was formed in that part of the town which was eventually set off to Lenox. This was thrown into confusion by a case of discipline, and finally the church was divided and formed into two churches, one church worshipping here, and the other in Lenox, or the north part of Stockbridge, where some of the members resided. These two churches have been extinct many years.

There are a considerable number of Baptists now in town, and also a considerable number of Methodists, connected with people of their own denominations in the neighboring towns. An Episcopal church, called St. John's church, was formed here in 1825, having 6 communicants. None of these denominations have any stated preaching in town.

Physicians have been settled in this town by the name of Hillyard, Bute, Childs, Kittredge, &c.; but we have at present no practising physician.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF LEE.

BY REV. ALVAN HYDE, D. D.

---

This town is bounded on the north by Lenox; on the east by Washington and Becket; on the south by Tyringham and Great Barrington; and on the west by Stockbridge. The low lands were formerly occupied by the Stockbridge tribe of Indians for the purpose of raising corn; while the extensive forests around them were devoted to hunting and to the manufacture of sugar from the sap of the maple, with which the forests abounded. The first white man who settled in the town was Mr. Isaac Davis, in the year 1760. He located himself quite in the south part of the town, on the banks of what is called Hop brook, a considerable stream, which takes its rise in Tyringham. Few of his descendants now remain.

The town was incorporated in the year 1777. The eastern part was taken from the town of Washington, called Hartwood; the south-western, called Hop-land, was taken from Great Barrington; the residue was made up of certain provincial grants, called Glass-works' grant, Williams' grant, &c., and was named in honour of Gen. *Lee*, then an active officer in the Revolutionary war. The original inhabitants were composed principally of emigrants from Tolland, in Connecticut, and from Barnstable, Sandwich, Falmouth, and Great Barrington, in Mass. One of the early settlers, Mr. Jesse Bradley, whose descendants are numerous, came from New Haven, in Connecticut; another, Mr. Jonathan Foot, came from Colchester.

The town is six miles in length, and five in breadth, and presents a very diversified appearance. It forms a part of the interval which lies between the Taconic and Green Mountain ranges. The Green Mountain range, which rises to a moderate elevation, runs partly within the eastern limits of the town, presenting a very picturesque appearance. These mountains are for the most part of gentle acclivity, and are cultivated, in some places, quite to their summits. From the base of these mountains, the surface of the earth is rather uneven, occasionally rising into hills of considerable height, but generally descending, until it reaches the plain upon the banks of the Housatonic. West of this river, the land is every where undulating in its appearance, inclining towards the south, and well situated for receiving the genial rays of the sun.

At the north-east corner of the town, enters the Housatonic, a lively and romantic stream of considerable size, and runs diagonally through it, though in a very serpentine course, passing out at the south-west corner, and dividing the town into two nearly equal parts. It receives in its passage through the town, the waters of Washington mountain, the waters of Scott's pond, lying on the boundaries between this town and Lenox, the waters of Greenwater pond, which is within the limits of Becket, the waters of Goose pond, which is situated on the line between Becket and Tyringham, and quite on the summit of the mountain, the waters of Hop brook, as well as several other streams of less size.

The advantages afforded by the Housatonic and its numerous tributaries, for manufactures, are rarely surpassed in any place. Though the Housatonic is a rapid river, and occasionally swells itself, so as to overflow its banks, yet it seldom rises so high as to prove destructive to the water-works which have been construct-structed upon it. Several enterprising young men have of late enlisted in the manufacturing business, and by their energy and success have already given the place an elevated rank among the towns in the County. Still there are many favorable stands for business, unoccupied, presenting alluring prospects for future adventurers.

There are now in the town 9 saw-mills, 2 grist-mills, 2 woollen factories, 4 turning shops, 8 paper-mills.

4 tanneries, 2 furnaces, 1 powder factory, 2 fulling-mills, 1 distillery, 1 forge, 2 carding-machines, 1 chaise factory, 1 machine factory, and 2 cabinet warehouses. There are besides many mechanics of different trades. The various factories give employment to several hundreds of people, and they are constantly increasing.

The most extensive woollen factory is owned by Messrs. Ball, Bassett & Co., and is situated on a stream which comes from Scott's pond, and near its entrance into the Housatonic, about one quarter of a mile from the meeting-house. To their establishment belong several building ; one for carding, spinning, and weaving, 40 by 32 feet, 3 stories, filled with machinery ; one for fulling and finishing, 30 by 22 feet, 2 stories, containing much machinery ; and 2 dye-houses. They manufacture annually 12000 lbs of wool ; and for the whole of their stock, consisting of wool, oil, dye-stuffs, &c., they pay annually between 7 and 8000 dollars. The amount of goods which they manufacture annually is 1000 yards of broad-cloth, 12000 yards of satinet, and 300 yards of felting. They employ 14 hands. The other woollen factory is in the south part of the town, erected in 1819, employing 10 workmen.

The most considerable turning establishment in the town is owned by Messrs. Thacher & Bassett, who employ 10 hands, and pay annually $4000 for timber, brought to their works from the mountains and forests around, ready for turning ; and send off to New York, and other places of market, $8000 worth of chair-stuff.

There was formerly an extensive powder factory, a short distance from the centre of the town, owned by Messrs. Laflin, Loomis, & Co., where an immense quantity of powder was manufactured every season. This factory was in operation many years. The average quantity of powder manufactured per day, was 25 kegs, for which they found a ready market in the western part of the State of New York, in the region of Lockport and elsewhere. This business was very profitable, while the excavations for the Erie Canal were in progress. The explosions at this establishment were frequent, greatly endangering the lives of the workmen, as well as the lives and houses of the inhabitants in their vicin-

ity. These explosions might be attributed, in some instances, perhaps, to the carelessness of the workmen, and in others, to the manner in which the business was pressed. In September, 1824, a scene of desolation was exhibited, which exceeds all description. At this time, it was estimated that there were about 5 tons of powder in the different buildings; and when the workmen, on a very pleasant morning, thought all things were going securely on, in a moment, every building was rased from its foundation with a tremendous explosion. Three of the unfortunate workmen were instantly hurried into eternity, while a fourth, who was thrown into the river, lingered for a short time, but lingered in agony. "Death came, like a friend, to relieve him from pain." The life of one of the proprietors was, for a few moments, in imminent danger from falling timbers, thrown to a great height in the air. Every house and building in the neighborhood were more or less injured, and every breast was shocked. Such was the consternation produced in the minds of the inhabitants, that they universally protested against the rebuilding of the mills. With this feeling of the public, the feelings of the proprietors coincided. They soon after sold this water privilege, and upon the ruins of the powder factory there has since been erected an extensive paper-mill establishment, now owned by Messrs. J. & L. Church & Co. It contains 2 engines, employs 16 workmen, and manufactures between 3 and 4000 reams annually.

The several paper-mills employ from 130 to 160 hands, and manufacture annually many thousands of reams of writing, printing, and wrapping paper, for which they find market at New York.

The first paper-mill in the town was built by Mr. Samuel Church, more than 20 years ago, in that part of the town now called South Lee. This is now owned by Messrs. Owen & Hurlburt, who have made very extensive improvements upon the establishment, having two large and convenient buildings, in which much business is done in a very systematic manner, giving employment to from thirty to forty persons. These enterprising gentlemen have, in one or two instances, received premiums upon their paper, as being of a very superior quality. They, together with Messrs. J. & L.

Church, have manufactured *bank-bill* paper to a considerable extent.

In the summer of 1826, Messrs. W. & W. & C. Laflin erected a paper-mill on a very extensive plan, in the centre of the town. The upright building is 100 feet by 35. The basement story is composed of stone, the next story of brick, and the upper part of wood. It has two wings on the east, one 50 by 24, the other 23 by 18, and one wing on the west, 30 by 30. They also erected, the same season, a brick boarding-house, 2 stories high, 68 by 30, with two wings, divided into four tenements, sufficiently large to accommodate twenty persons in each tenement. The mill has four engines, carried by one water wheel, and it manufactures from 600 to 1000 lbs. of rags per day, and makes as much paper as four common mills with single engines. It gives employment to 20 men and 40 women. The water is brought from a distance of 140 rods above the mill, by a lateral cut running parallel with the river, 30 feet in width upon the surface, and of sufficient depth to receive the whole of the river, should so much water be needed, with a race-way from the mill, 30 rods long and 25 feet wide, making the length of the excavation 170 rods. All this was accomplished in eight months. In connexion with this mill, another was erected in 1827, three quarters of a mile up the river, sufficiently large to manufacture from 1000 to 1500 lbs. of rags per day, or from 24 to 60 reams of printing paper. It gives employment to 9 men and 8 women. Both mills, taken together, do the same work as two mills, with all the finishing apparatus attached, and manufacture annually $50,000 worth of paper. The whole establishment cost from 25 to 30,000 dollars.

One of the furnaces, which has been in operation for many years, is in the east part of the town, on the stream which comes from Green-water pond, and is owned by James Whiton, Esq. It may be called a pot furnace. Here are made all kinds of iron castings. The other, which has been recently built by Mr. Tarsus Botsford, is in the north-east part of the town, and erected on a stream which comes from Washington mountain. This is denominated a cupola furnace. It

has gone into successful operation, and employs six hands.

The machine factory is owned by Messrs. Beach & Royce, and is situated on the united streams which come from Green-water pond and Goose pond, a quarter of a mile below their junction. This is considered an important establishment, and though new in its operations, promises great public utility. It employs nine hands, and makes almost all kinds of machinery used in the manufacturing business.

It is estimated, that 1626 tons are annually transported to and from Hudson river, by the inhabitants of this town, in their various occupations. Seven hundred tons are supposed to be annually transported. by those who are concerned in the various paper-mills. The whole cost of transportation is estimated at $8943, every year.

There are in this town eight stores, employing capitals of between four and five thousand dollars each. They sell to a considerable amount, every year, not only to the inhabitants of this town, but also to those of the mountain towns around.

Increasing attention is paid to agriculture, and this has been especially noticed, since the establishment of agricultural societies. The land in this town, as in all others, is of different qualities. On each side of the Housatonic, there are extensive plains of rich alluvial land, of the best quality, easily tilled and very productive. These plains vary in width, according to the windings of the river. They are rather narrow at the north, but widen towards the south. The soil of the uplands is a loam, interspersed with gravel and stones, particularly on the east side of the river; on the west, there is more clay. Gypsum is used to very great effect by some of the farmers. The productions are rye, summer wheat, Indian corn, grass, oats, peas, beans, flax, buckwheat, and potatoes. Such articles of produce as are not wanted for home consumption, are taken to Hudson or Albany, from which places this town is situated between 30 and 40 miles. Most of the inhabitants are clothed with articles of domestic manufacture.

The orchards in this town are numerous and productive, from which cider is manufactured in sufficient quantities for the use of the inhabitants.

Fuel is cheap and abundant, as the mountains are covered with wood, which may be obtained in the winter season, without much trouble. Among the different kinds of timber may be found birch, beech, maple, hemlock, some pine, walnut, oak, chesnut, ash, &c.

Numerous strata of limestone are found in different parts of the town, from which sufficient lime is made for the use of the inhabitants.

A few quarries of white and clouded marble have been discovered, from which elegantb uilding and gravestones might be obtained.

There is in the south part of the town, at the base of the Beartown mountains, an inexhaustible bed of clay of superior quality, from which great quantities of brick are annually made. Potter's clay is also found a short distance from the same bed in abundance. A pottery has been established in the vicinity, at which more or less earthen ware is made every year.

This town is divided into 8 school-districts, all of which are provided with decent houses for the instruction of children, excepting one, which is connected with a district in Stockbridge. From 4 to 600 dollars are annually appropriated by the town for the support of schools, together with a small land fund, besides considerable sums by subscription. Competent instructors are employed in each district, during the greater part of the year, so that the child must be inexcusable who voluntarily suffers himself to be unacquainted with the rudiments of education. A new impulse has been given to public sentiment, on the subject of education, since the enactment of the law regulating common schools, in the year 1825.

The roads are uncommonly good. Through the south part of the town passes the turnpike from Albany to Boston, through Springfield. Through the east part of the town, the road passes, formerly a turnpike, leading from Hartford to Albany, by the way of New Lebanon. All the other roads, in a very singular manner, converge to the centre, like the radii of a circle, where there is already quite a village, which is constantly increasing

There is also a village of considerable size in the south part of the town, containing about fifty families, where uncommon water privileges are enjoyed, and much business of various kinds is done.

Three public mail stages pass through this place daily. One from Albany to Boston, through Springfield; one from Hartford to Pittsfield, and one from Hudson to Pittsfield. They are all well supported. There are two post-offices; one in the centre, and the other in the south part of the town.

The climate is very healthy. The water is good, though in general more or less impregnated with lime. Fevers are very rare; and never but in one instance, since the settlement of the town, has disease prevailed to such an extent as to diffuse terror among the inhabitants. In the year 1813, it suffered, with many other parts of the country, from the epidemic which then prevailed so extensively. That year, between 30 and 40 of the inhabitants died. The whole number of deaths in 36 years is 624. Of this number 44 had completed between 80 and 90 years. The average number of deaths, during the same period, is 17 a year.

The population in 1820 was 1450. Owing to the spirit of emigration which prevailed here, for several years, the number did not greatly increase. Many towns in the western part of the State of New York, and in New Connecticut, may almost be said to be composed of inhabitants from this place. The increase of factories, within a few years, has added to the population probably from 3 to 400. The number of dwelling-houses in the town is rising of 200.

In the years 1800 and 1801, was built the large and convenient house of worship, now occupied by the church and people. In accomplishing this work, Josiah Yale, Esq., one of the early settlers of the town, and a firm friend to its best interests, took a very active part. To his influence and persevering efforts, guided by wisdom and prudence, the town is much indebted. He died the 13th of May, 1822, having completed 70 years.

The character of the people may be said to be moral, in an uncommon degree. They are for the most part strict observers of the Sabbath, and regular attendants

upon public worship. The great body of the people, from the first settlement of the town, have attached themselves to the Congregational society. There are, however, in the south part of the town, some Baptists and some Methodists. These have lately united in building a house of worship, in which they were aided by most of the inhabitants of that village, and by some others in the town.

The Congregational church in this town was organized on the 25th of May, 1780, by the Rev. Daniel Collins, of Lanesborough, consisting of thirty members. As the basis of their union, they adopted the same confession of faith which is acknowledged by the church at the present time. This small church had many opposers in the town; and the ground of opposition was their adherence to the doctrines of grace. Mr. Abraham Fowler was preaching to the people, as a candidate, at the time the church was formed; and soon after was invited to settle in the ministry, and take the pastoral charge of the church. The day of ordination was appointed to be on the 8th of June, 1780; and the council which was called, convened at the time. On this occasion, the church experienced a great trial and disappointment; for so many in the town united in a remonstrance against the settlement of Mr. Fowler, that the Council decided against proceeding to ordain him.

On the 3d of July, 1783, Mr. Elisha Parmelee, of Goshen, in Connecticut, a graduate of Harvard College, was ordained their pastor; though to his settlement there was much opposition. Mr. Parmelee was sound in the faith amiable in his manners, and highly respected for his piety and talents. His health, however, soon failed, and his ministry was of short duration. He preached to the people only a few months. On the 13th of May, 1784, the church and people, at his request, consented that he should journey to *Virginia*, with the hope of regaining his health. While prosecuting this journey, and nearly one hundred miles short of the place he intended to reach, in the county of Augusta, he closed his mortal life, at the seat of Col. Abraham Bird, in the county of Shenandoah, Aug. 2, 1784, aged 29.

For eight years the church then was without a pastor. Though small, it was happily united, while the town was greatly divided. During this period, many candidates were employed, and many attempts made to settle one, but without success. The preservation of the church at this time, under providence, must be ascribed very much to the exertions, prudence and firmness of some of the leading members, aided by the labours and counsels of the late venerable Dr. West, of Stockbridge.

On the 6th of June, 1792, the present pastor, the Rev. Alvan Hyde, D. D., was ordained over this church and people. In making out the call for his settlement, the same opposition was manifested, as in former cases; but none appeared to remonstrate before the council. In a few weeks after his ordination, it pleased God to shed down the influences of his Holy Spirit upon this people, in a wonderful manner, and at a time of great security in sin, in all the neighbouring towns. Such general solemnity, and such expressions of deep feeling and anguish on account of sin, it is believed, have rarely been witnessed in any place. There was little or no abatement of the attention among the people, and of the displays of sovereign grace, for 18 months. The moral aspect of the place was very soon changed, in a most remarkable manner. More than one hundred persons were added to the church, among whom were some, who had been the most active in opposing the distinguishing doctrines of grace. A happy union in the town was effected, which has continued without any special interruption to the present day. For more than thirty-six years, the harmony and tranquillity which have prevailed, both in the church and society, have been noticed as being uncommon.

In the year 1800, another season of special attention to the concerns of the soul was witnessed in the town, which resulted in the addition of 21 persons to the church.

In 1806, there was another revival of religion, when seventy one were added to the church.

In 1813, another season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord was experienced, when twenty were added to the church.

In 1821, there was another revival, which was followed by an addition to the church of 75 persons.

In 1827, divine influences were again shed down upon this people. and great numbers were hopefully converted from the error of their ways. More than one hundred and thirty have since united with the church. The whole number of admissions, since the settlement of the present pastor, is 640. The present number of members is 361.

*Deacons of the Church.*

Oliver West; chosen July 18, 1783; died April 23, 1816, aged 82.

Jesse Bradley; do. do. died July 26, 1812, aged 76.

Levi Nye; do. Sept. 23, 1792; died Aug. 6, 1825, aged 82.

Edmund Hinckley; chosen Oct. 10, 1804 died; Jan. 3, 1822, aged 76.

David Ingersoll; do. June 11, 1812;

John Thacher; chosen June 7, 1816; died Oct. 5, 1828, aged 61.

Josiah Spencer; do. Oct. 15, 1820.

Nathan Bassett; do. March 17, 1826.

Hubbard Bartlett; chosen Jan. 23, 1829.

*Physicians.*

Gideon Thompson; native of Goshen, Con.; moved to Galway, N. Y.

Erastus Sergeant; native of Stockbridge; graduate of Dartmouth College, 1792.

Nathaniel Thayer; native of Boston; died at Westfield.

Hubbard Bartlett; native of Richmond.

Asa G. Welch; native of Norfolk, Con.

*Lawyers.*

Rollin C. Dewey; native of Sheffield; admitted to the bar in 1813; moved to Indiana.

Alvan Coe; native of Granville; now a clergyman at Sandusky, Ohio.

Augustus Collins; native of Guilford, Con.; now living in Westfield.

William Porter, Jun.; native of Hadley; graduate of Williams College, 1813; admitted to the bar in 1817:

Lawson D. Bidwell; native of Tyringham; graduate of Williams College, 1814; admitted to the bar in 1817.

*Justices of the Peace.*

Ebenezer Jenkins; died in 1810, aged 74.
Josiah Yale; do. 1822, " 70.
Joseph Whiton; do. 1823, " 69.
Jared Bradley; do. 1814, " 53.
Jedediah Crocker.
John Nye; do. 1826, " 75.
William Sturgis.
John Freese.
Augustus Collins.
Rollin C. Dewey.
James Whiton.
Gershom Bassett.
John B. Perry.
Stephen Thacher.
Abijah Merrill.
William Porter, Jun.
Nathaniel Tremain.
Walter Laflin.
Lawson D. Bidwell.
Charles M. Owen.
Hubbard Bartlett.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF PITTSFIELD.

BY HENRY K. STRONG, A. M.

---

In the year 1752, the settlement of this town was commenced by Solomon Deming, who moved his family from Wethersfield, Con., and built a dwelling in the east part of the town, near where Wm. Wells now lives. Cha's. Goodrich came next; and soon after a number of others. Most of the interesting facts and anecdotes relating to the first settlement, are now lost. Ten years ago, many of the intelligent fathers were alive to tell the story; but now no daring pioneer of the wilderness can tell how the Indian roamed through the forest, or fished and hunted by the side of our rivers.

M. Goodrich, who died in 1815 in the 96th year of his age, drove the first cart and team into the town from Wethersfield, being obliged to cut his way for a number of miles through the woods.

Mrs. Deming was the first white female that came into the town; and was often left alone through the night by the necessary absence of her husband when there was not another white inhabitant in the town, and the wilderness was filled with Indians. She was the last, as well as first, of the settlers, and departed this life, March, 1818, aged 92.

In 1753, Simeon Crofoot, Charles Goodrich, Jacob Ensign, Solomon Deming, Stephen Crofoot, Samuel Taylor, and Elias Willard, obtained an act from the General Court, incorporating them by the name of "*The Proprietors of the settling lots in the township of Poontoosuck.*" Poontoosuck was the Indian name

of this place, which it retained until 1761, when the town was incorporated by the name of Pittsfield, in honor of the celebrated English statesman, William Pitt.

On the 30th day of July, 1753, the proprietors notified Hon. Joseph Dwight, of Stockbridge, that he was appointed by the government to call the first town meeting. Accordingly, on the 12th of September following, the first town meeting was held at the house of Elias Willard, when Hezekiah Jones was chosen moderator, and David Bush town clerk. The first vote that passed after the meeting was organized, was to raise money for the support of religious instruction, and the second was to build a meeting-house.

The proprietors were driven off once or twice by the Indians in the time of the second French war; and in the year 1755, a man by the name of Stephens, of Lenox, was shot from his horse in the south part of that town, while attempting to flee to Stockbridge. His horse was likewise killed; while a young woman by the name of Piercey, from this town, who was on the horse with Mr. Stephens, escaped.

The inhabitants erected three small forts, as places of safety against the Indians; two in the east, and one in the west part of the town.

The one in the west part, was erected about 50 rods south of the West pond, on an eminence that overlooks all that part of the town. The one in the east part was erected a few rods west of the house of Joseph Shearer, Esq., and the other near where Gen. Willis now lives.

The records of the town have been regularly kept, from the time of the first town meeting to the present, excepting from August, 1753, to September, 1758, more than four years. It is supposed to be occasioned by Indian hostilities in the French war.

The first house for public worship was erected a little south of the present Congregational meeting-house. The Rev. Thomas Allen received a unanimous call on the 5th of March, 1764, and was ordained on the 18th of April following. Mr. Allen continued the pastor of a happy and united congregation for about 40 years.

During the presidency of Mr. Jefferson, that spirit of political rancour that infected every class of citizens in this country, arraying fathers, brothers, sons, and

neighbours, against each other, entered even the sanctuary of the church. A number of Mr. Allen's church and congregation withdrew, and were incorporated by the Legislature into a separate parish in 1808. Thus presenting to the world the ridiculous spectacle of a church divided on party politics, and known by the party names of the day; a federal church in opposition to a republican church. Mr. Thomas Pundersen was ordained pastor of the dissenting parish on the 26th of October, 1809. Worn down by trouble and the infirmities of age, Mr. Allen died on the morning of the 11th of February, 1810, aged 67, and in the 46th year of his ministry.

The bereaved church and congregation invited Mr. William Allen, now President of Bowdoin College, to settle over the congregation of his father. He accepted, and was ordained in October, 1810. The two churches remained separate about 8 years. At length it was seen that party spirit was not the spirit of Christ, and both parishes were united again in 1817. Mr. Allen and Mr. Punderson were both dismissed, and the Rev. Heman Humphrey, now President of Amherst College, was installed over the united congregation, Nov. 27, 1817. Mr. Humphrey, unusually beloved by his church and congregation, continued a successful pastor, until called by the trustees of Amherst College to preside over that institution, in 1823.

He was succeeded by the Rev. Rufus W. Bailey, who was ordained April 15, 1824, and dismissed in 1827, on account of ill health. The Rev. Henry P. Tappan, the present minister, was ordained Sept. 17, 1828.

There have been two powerful revivals of religion in this church and congregation; one in 1821, during the ministry of Mr. Humphrey, and another in 1827, during the ministry of Mr. Bailey.

There is a Baptist, an Episcopal Methodist, and a small Reformed Methodist church in the town.

The Rev. John Francis was the first Baptist minister. The church were deprived of the services of this excellent man in 1813. The Rev. Augustus Beach is the present pastor of the Baptist church.

These churches have been frequently blessed with revivals of religion.

The first thing that appears on the records of the town, relating to the *Revolution*, was a petition for a town meeting, about a year before the commencement of hostilities. As nothing of this kind can be uninteresting, I shall take the liberty to insert it:—

"We, the subscribers, inhabitants and freeholders in the town of Pittsfield, do humbly request the selectmen of said town, to issue a warrant directed to the constables, or otherwise to post the same on the meeting-house, for the assembling the freeholders and other inhabitants of said town, to convene at said meeting-house on Tuesday next, at 3 o'clock, P. M., to act and do what the town shall think proper respecting the *circular letters* to this town from the town of Boston, and other towns in this Province: and such other things and matters as the said town shall think proper in regard to the *invaded liberties* and privileges of this country.

| | |
|---|---|
| James Easton, | John Brown, |
| John Strong, | Matthew Wright, |
| Ezekiel Root, | David Noble, |
| Oliver Root, | Daniel Weller, |
| Timothy Childs, | James Noble. |

*Pittsfield, June* 24, 1774."

The selectmen called a town meeting on the 30th of June, when the following gentlemen were chosen a standing committee of safety and correspondence, to correspond with the corresponding committees of this and other provinces, viz. Rev. Thomas Allen, Deacon James Easton, Col. John Brown, Deacon Josiah Wright, Capt. John Strong, Capt. David Noble, and Capt. David Bush.

It was then voted to enter into a covenant of mutual defence with the other towns in the Province, and to adopt the covenant, drafted at Worcester, literally. It was next voted to send delegates to meet in County Convention at Stockbridge; and James Easton, Col. John Brown, and John Strong, were appointed delegates.

On the 15th day of August, 1774, Dr. Timothy Childs and Capt. John Strong were chosen a committee to draw up a petition to the "Hon. Old Court," as it was then called, "*not to transact any business this term.*" This

of the Court has good grounds to neglect to do business in the law, and the people just occasion to petition for it, and insist upon it, without admitting a refusal."

Many patriotic acts and resolves appear on the town records, of which no mention can be made in this work. But that posterity may know that their ancestors did something besides *pass resolves*, we insert the following votes, passed the 24th of January, 1774:

"*Voted*, 1st. That the town pay the sum of one shilling and six pence per day, to each and every piquet or minute man, that have or shall hereafter enlist into the piquet company in the town of Pittsfield, under the command of Capt. David Noble: *Provided*, that each and every man enlisted as aforesaid, shall equip and furnish himself with proper and sufficient arms and accoutrements fit for war, and stand ready at a minute's warning to march and oppose the enemies of our country, if called thereto. And provided, nevertheless, that each piquet man, as aforesaid, appear and exercise 3 hours for each and every half day; and in case any person enlisted as aforesaid, shall make default in appearing as aforesaid to exercise, after being properly notified for that purpose, each and every person making such default, shall forfeit the sum of three shillings per day, to be paid or deducted out of his wages hereby granted him; unless such person making such default have a reasonable excuse for his absence; and the officers of said piquet are hereby appointed judges to determine the performance of the premises aforesaid.

2d. That the piquet company exercise four half days per month, from this time until further orders from this town."

In March 30, 1778, the following vote passed, viz. "That money sufficient to purchase 32 shirts, 32 pair of stockings, and 32 pair of shoes for the use of the soldiers now in the Continental army, from this town, be made into a tax; said money to be raised immediately, in the same method that the other town taxes have been laid this year."

In May following, it was voted by the town, "That the commissioned officers be empowered to promise £180 to 6 able bodied men, to serve in the continental army the term of 9 months."

On the 20th of December, 1780, a committee, chosen by the town to devise what measures the town would take for raising 16 Continental soldiers, made the following report, which was accepted by the town:

"That it is the opinion of the committee that the town choose two thorough men to act as a committee to hire sixteen men; and to obligate themselves on the credit of the town to pay each man the sum of £30 in hard money, over and above State and Continental pay and rewards, within three weeks; or otherwise to pay such persons to their acceptance and satisfaction."

The following votes passed in town meeting, March 25, 1776. Those who have read Trumbull's McFingal, especially the method of *handling* Tories, as it was called, cannot but think it exceedingly funny that the poor fellows should not only pass through the ordeal of *handling*, but be obliged to *pay* for it.

*Directions for the Committee of Inspection.*

"Whereas the committee of inspection and correspondence have made application to this town at their March meeting, 1776, for directions how to recover pay for handling persons that appeared to be inimical to their country;

*Voted*, 1st. That this town determine that said committee, consisting or having consisted of who they may, are one and the same from their first appointment to this day, and that all their transactions and determinations ought to be considered the actions and procedures of an adjourned court. Consequently, all matters and things that have not been finally determined, shall have day with them; and that if there be any matters and things before them that are not yet determined upon, they, the committee, as it now stands, have as full power and authority to act upon as ever they had; and if any persons have upon trial appeared inimical to their country, or hereafter on trial shall appear so, they are hereby empowered, so far as our united influence can support them, to tax such persons for their time therein expended on trial, and for all other necessary charges; and on refusal, to be committed to the common gaol, or be otherwise confined till paid, and in all other respects to deal with them as to punishment according to the di-

rection of the Continental Congress, Provincial Congress, or General Assembly.

*Voted*, 2d. That if said committee shall apprehend any person or persons and convene before them whom they suspect to be inimical to their country, or to be guilty of any other misdemeanors, and upon trial are found innocent, in that case the said committee have no pay for their time and cost.

*Voted*. 3d. That if any complaint shall be brought before the said committee by any person or persons, and if any complaint so brought be supported, then the offender be ordered by the said committee to pay all costs; and if the offender shall refuse to comply in paying costs, then the offender shall be ordered to confinement in the common gaol or elsewhere, until he comply and pay the cost, together with the confinement, with the charge thereof; and in case any complainant shall not support his complaint, said complainant shall be holden to pay all costs, and on his refusal, shall be holden and committed as aforesaid."

Pittsfield is situated near the centre of the County of Berkshire. It is bounded on the north by Lanesborough; on the east by Dalton and Washington; on the south by Lenox and Richmond; and on the west by Hancock and Richmond. It is six miles square, and contained in 1820, 2765 inhabitants. It now contains probably 3600, about 100 to a square mile.

The stage road from Albany, passing Lebanon Springs, through Northampton to Boston, passes through the centre of the town, as well as a new road now working from Albany through Springfield to Boston. The only stage road from Hartford to Bennington, and the stage road through the southern part of the County from Hudson to Bennington, likewise passes through this town. Forty-two stages, besides extras, arrive and depart weekly.

The public square, in the centre of the town, where the north and south, east and west roads cross each other at right angles, contains about 4 acres of land. The land on the south side was given to the town by the Hon. John C. Williams. The public buildings on the north side are, the Town House and Congregational

Church; on the east, the Berkshire Medical Institution, and on the south, the Agricultural Bank. In the centre is a beautiful elm, which never fails to attract the attention of strangers. It is 126 feet in height, and 90 feet to the limbs.

There are in the town 20 stores, 7 woollen factories, one of which manufactures about $211,000 worth of cloth per annum; 1 gun factory, which manufactures for the U. S. Government 2200 stand of arms, which amount to $30,000 annually; 1 carriage factory, which manufactures $30,000 worth of carriages, mostly for the New York market; 1 extensive tin establishment, br y, 1 extensive last factory, 2 large cabinet ware estaulishment, 4 flour mills, 1 distillery, &c.

There are three meeting-houses in the centre of the village, ornamented with spires or steeples; one Congregational, one Baptist, and one Methodist. The Reformed Methodists have a small house in the west part of the town.

The Agricultural Bank, incorporated in 1818, with a capital of $100,000, is located in this town. The Berkshire Medical Institution, situated on the public square, ha six professors and about 100 students. There is a Lyceum of Natural History connected with the Institution, incorporated by an act of the Legislature.

The *Berkshire Gymnasium*, somewhat on the plan of the European *gymnasia*, was established about two years since, a little north of the public square. This splendid establishment was built up by Mr. Lemuel Pomeroy, whose enterprize has done much to beautify and adorn the town. Three large and elegant buildings have been erected on an elegant site, ornamented with trees and walks, and overlooking an extensive garden and pleasure grounds of uncommon beauty. Rev. Chester Dewey, late Professor of Natural Philosophy, Mathematics and Chemistry, in Williams College, is the Principal, assisted by teachers in the English branches of education, and the ancient and modern languages.

The *Pittsfield Seminary for Young Ladies*, now under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, is one of the most deservedly popular institutions of the

kind in the country. Teachers of eminence in the solid as well as the ornamental branches of education, are employed.

Besides the schools abovementioned, there are two private schools in the town, in which the number of pupils is limited to 20 or 25. In these schools, the pupil for the time is adopted into the family of the teacher, and enjoys at all times the society as well as instruction of his teacher. The first school of this kind was established about three years since, by Mr. Charles Dillingham, formerly one of the teachers of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum in Philadelphia, with complete success. His scholars are mostly from Albany, New York, and Philadelphia. Henry K. Strong, formerly Preceptor of the Pittsfield Academy, has just commenced the other. In all the literary institutions in Pittsfield, there are are about 300 students from abroad.

Besides the schools already mentioned for scholars from abroad, the town are doing much for the education of their own children. The sum of $1600 is raised by the town in an annual tax for the support of common schools, while a number of select schools are supported by individuals.

There are two newspapers published in the town, the Pittsfield Sun and the Argus. The Pittsfield Sun was commenced in 1801, by Hon. Phinehas Allen, its present conductor. The Argus was established in 1827, by Henry K. Strong, and is now conducted by Samuel W. Bush.

The Berkshire American was commenced here in 1826 by Dr. A. Greene. It was moved to Adams in 1827.

The Berkshire Reporter was published here in 1812, but is now discontinued.

Pittsfield has no mountains, except a point of Lenox mountain on the south, which extends a short distance into the town. The Taconic mountain in Hancock, however runs nearly parallel with the town line on the west and a continuance of the Green Mountain range bounds the town on the east.

The Housatonic river, which is formed by a number of brooks in the mountain towns east of Dalton, enters this town at the north-east corner, and after running

about 4 miles in a south-westerly direction, and within half a mile of the centre of the village it takes a southerly direction, which it preserves through the town. There are some fine water privileges on this stream, some of which are unoccupied.

The Pontoosuc river, or as it is sometimes called, the western branch of the Housatonic, flows from a small but beautiful lake, partly in this town and partly in Lanesborough. It is a beautiful sheet of water, about a mile and a half long, and a mile wide. The river is formed by the outlet of the lake, which is at the south-east corner. This stream runs nearly south, and passes the village of Pittsfield, about half a mile to the west. It pursues a southerly course about three-fourths of a mile to the south of the centre of the village, where it turns to the east and unites with the Housatonic. As this stream originates in a lake, it is not affected by droughts or freshets, while the fall is so considerable as to furnish a great number of invaluable water privileges. Most of the factories in the town are on this stream.

The Shaker brook originates in Richmond pond, on the south line of the town. It runs north-easterly and unites with Pontoosuc river. There are good water privileges on this brook, two of which are already occupied.

The soil is generally rich and productive. There is little or no waste land in the town. There is a large quantity of alluvial land on the rivers, especially on the Housatonic, which usually overflows its banks in the spring. There was formerly much wheat and rye raised in this town for market, and the merchants exchanged beef, pork, butter, and cheese, for goods in New York. This is not now the case. A manufacturing and mechanical population, together with the schools, have within ten years created a market at home. No butter, cheese, beef, or pork, is now carried out of the town, but considerable quantities are now brought in from the neighbouring towns; and more than 3000 bbls. of western flour are retailed by the merchants annually.

*Members of Congress from Pittsfield.*

Simon Larned, 1896 to 1807.
Ezekiel Bacon, 1807 to 1813.
John W. Hulbert, 1815 to 1817.

*Members of the Senate of this State.*

Timothy Childs, 1805 to 1809.
Phinehas Allen, 1819 to 18 1.
Jonathan Allen, 1822 and 23.
Samuel M. McKay, 1829.

*Members of the Provincial Congress.*

John Brown, at Concord, March 22. 1775.
Charles Goodrich, at Cambridge, Feb. 15, 1775.

*Representatives to the State Legislature.*

Pittsfield first represented May 31, 1769. by

Capt. Charles Goodrich.
1770.
Capt. Charles Goodrich.
1771.
William Williams, Esq.
1772.
William Williams, Esq.
1773.
Capt. Charles Goodrich.
1774.
James Easton.
1775.
Capt. Charles Goodrich.
Israel Dickinson.
1776.
Valentine Rathbone,
Israel Dickinson.
1777.
Valentine Rathbone,
Josiah Wright,
Eli Root.
1778.
Col. John Brown.
1779.
Col. William Williams,
James Noble
1780.
Capt. Charles Goodrich.
1781.
Col. William Williams.
1782.
No one.
1783.
No one.
1784.
Dr. Timothy Childs.
1785.
Capt. Charles Goodrich.
1786.
Dr. Timothy Childs.
1787.
Henry Van Skaack, Esq.
Capt. David Bush.
1788.
Capt. David Bush.
Woodbridge Little, Esq.
1789.
Woodbridge Little, Esq.
1790.
Woodbridge Little, Esq.
1791.
Simon Larned, Esq.
1792.
Capt. Daniel Hubbard.
Dr. Timothy Childs.
1793.
Capt. Daniel Hubbard,
Dr. Timothy Childs.
1794.
John C. Williams, Esq.
1795.
John C. Williams, Esq.
1796.
John C Williams, Esq.

1797.
John C. Williams, Esq.
1798.
John C. Williams, Esq.
1799.
Ashbel Strong, Esq.
1800.
John C. Williams, Esq.
1801.
Joshua Danforth, Esq.
1802.
Joshua Danforth, Esq.
1803.
Joshua Danforth, Esq.
1804
Dr. Timothy Childs,
Thomas Allen, Jun.
1805.
Thomas Allen, Jun.
Simeon Griswold.
1806.
Joshua Danforth.
Simeon Griswold.
1807.
Simeon Griswold.
John Churchill.
1808.
Joshua Danforth,
John Churchill,
Joseph Shearer.
1809.
Simeon Griswold,
John Churchill,
Joseph Shearer.
1810.
John Churchill,
Joseph Shearer,
James Brown,
Oren Goodrich.
1811.
Timothy Childs,
James Brown,
Oren Goodrich,
Horace Allen.
1812.
Timothy Childs,
Oren Goodrich,
Jonathan Allen,
John B. Root.
1813.
John B. Root,
Caleb Wadhams,
John Dickinson,
Simeon Brown.
1814.
Timothy Childs,
Simeon Griswold,
John Churchill,
Phinehas Allen.
1815.
Oren Goodrich,
John Dickinson,
Phinehas Allen,
Oliver Robbins.
1816.
Jonathan Allen,
Oliver Robbins,
Joel Stevens,
Henry H. Childs.
1817.
Jonathan Allen.
1818.
Phinehas Allen.
1819.
Oren Goodrich.
1820.
Jonathan Allen.
1821.
Jonathan Allen,
William C. Jarvis.
1822.
William C. Jarvis.
1823.
William C. Jarvis.
Daniel B. Bush,
Samuel M. McKay,

Oren Goodrich.
1824.
William C. Jarvis,
Samuel M. McKay.
1825.
Samuel M. McKay.
1826.
Samuel M McKay,
Matthias R. Lanckton.
1827.
Matthias R. Lanckton.
Thomas B. Strong,
Daniel B. Bush,
Henry H. Childs.
1828.
Thomas B. Strong,
Daniel B. Bush,
Samuel M. McKay,
Daniel H. Francis.
1829.
Thomas B. Strong.

*Physicians in Pittsfield.*

Timothy Childs, M. D.; born at Deerfield; educated at Harvard College; died 1821.
Jonathan Lee; deceased.
William Kirtredge; deceased.
Gilbert Jennie; removed.
Daniel James; removed to Albany.
Dr. Stuttevant; removed.
Dr. Jones; removed to Stockbridge.
H. H. Childs, M. D.
John James, M. D.; removed.
Ira Wright; removed.
Oren Wright.
Dr. Bennet; removed.
Dr. Gunn; removed.
John P. Batchelder, M. D.; removed to Utica.
John De Lamatter, M. D.; removed.
Dr. Coleman.
Oliver S. Root M. D.
Robert Campbell, M. D.

*Lawyers.*

| *Born.* | *Educated.* | *Ad to the Bar* |
|---|---|---|
| Woodbridge Little,* | Y. 1760 | about 1770 |
| John Brown,* Sandisfield, | Y. 1771 | do. 1773 |
| Ashbel Strong,* N. Marlborough, | Y. 1776 | do. 1774 |
| John C. Williams, Roxbury, | H. 1777 | do. 1773-4 |
| Thomas Gold,* Cornwall, Ct. | Y. 1778 | do. do. |
| Thomas Allen,* Pittsfield, | W. 1789 | do. 1792 |
| *John W. Hurlburt.* Alford, | | do. 1794 |
| *Ezekiel Bacon,* Stockbridge, | Y. 1794 | 1798 |
| Thomas B. Strong, N. Marlboro', | Y. 1797 | 1801 |

| | Born. | Educated. | Ad. to the Bar |
|---|---|---|---|
| Henry Hubbard, | Sheffield, | W. —— | 1806 |
| Luther Washburn. | Hardwick, | | 1807 |
| *Moses Heyden*, | Conway, | W. 1804 | 1808 |
| Thomas A. Gold, | Pittsfield, | W. 1806 | 1809 |
| Jashub B. Luce,* | do. | W. —— | do. |
| *Chauncey Hurlburt*, | Alford, | | do. |
| *David Perry. Jun.*, | Rehoboth, | | do. |
| *John Hooker*, | Springfield, | | do. |
| Fordyce Merrick,* | Pittsfield, | | 1811 |
| *William C. Jarvis*, | Boston, | | do. |
| *Reynold M. Kirby*, | Litchfield, Con. | | do. |
| *Henry W. Taylor*, | Pittsfield, | | 1812 |
| *Wolcott Lawrence*, | Washington, | | do. |
| Daniel B. Bush, | Pittsfield, | | 1814 |
| Calvin Martin, | Hancock, | | do. |
| *John Porter*, | Dalton, | W. 1810 | 1817 |
| Matthias R. Lanckton, | Pittsfield. | | do. |
| *Josiah Hooker*, | Springfield, | Y. 1815 | 1820 |

* Died in town. Those in *italics* have removed.

Rev. Thomas Allen was born at Northampton, Jan. 17, 1743. He was educated at Harvard Coollege, graduated in 1762 and studied theology under the instruction of Rev. Mr. Hooker, of Northampton. On the 18th of April, 1764, he was ordained the first minister of Pittsfield, where, during a ministry of 46 years, he laboured to promote the emporal as well as spiritual welfare of the town. Mr. Allen was simple and courteous in his manners, zealous in matters of belief, warm in his attachments, and frank in his reproofs of those he considered in the wrong. His frankness and zeal sometimes exposed him to the charge of indiscretion. Convinced that the American Revolution was founded in justice, he engaged in it upon a principle of duty. He was chairman of the committee of correspondence, chosen by the town in 1774. Constitutionally ardent and intrepid, he was impelled in those trying times to take up arms in his country's cause. When a detachment of Burgoyne's troops had penetrated as far as the vicinity of Bennington, he marched with the volunteer militia of this town to meet and repel the invasion. Before the attack was commenced, being posted opposite to that wing of the enemy which was principally com-

posed of refugees, who had joined the invaders, he advanced in front of our militia, and in a voice distinctly heard by those tories in their breastwork, exhorted them to lay down their arms, assuring them of good treatment, and warning them of the consequences of a refusal. Having performed what he considered a religious duty, and being fired upon, he resumed his place in the ranks, and when the signal was given, was among the foremost in attacking the enemy's works.

He was a Calvinist in sentiment, and in ecclesiastical government, a Congregationalist; believing that Congregationalism in the church was analogous to Republicanism in the state. On principle he was opposed to Presbyterianism and Episcopacy, as he was to aristocracy and monarchy in civil government. He died Feb. 11, 1810, aged 67. During his ministry, 341 were added to the church; 57 during Rev. William Allen's; 56 during Rev. Mr. Punderson's; 214 during Rev. Mr. Humphrey's; 99 during Rev. Mr. Bailey's. It was organized in 1764, and then consisted of 7 male members. There are at present, 563 communicants.

Col. John Brown was born in Sandisfield, in this County, Oct. 19, 1744. He graduated at Yale College in the year 1771, studied law in Rhode Island, and commenced practice in this town, 1773. Being daring, and at the same time prudent, and having a fine personal address, he was selected by the Committee of Correspondence of this State, in 1774, for the hazardous enterprize of going to Canada to excite the people of that Province against the mother country, and attach them to the cause of the Revolution. He went early in the spring of 1774, and returning again in the autumn, went again in 1775. Before Gen. Arnold's character was generally known, when his reputation was the highest, Col. Brown published a handbill against him, containing 13 or 14 articles; and among other things, charged him with levying contributions on the inhabitants of Canada, for his own private use and benefit. Two years before the treason of Arnold, Col. Brown remarked to Elkanah Watson, Esq., that "such was the baseness of his heart—his love of gold—that if the British should find out the man, he would prove a traitor to his country."

He was elected by this town a delegate to the Provincial Congress which was holden at Cambridge, Feb. 15, 1775, and in 1778, a member of the General Court. In Dec. 1775, he marched at the head of a regiment of militia to Mount Independence. After the battle of Bennington, being sent by Gen. Lincoln with a detachment to surprize the garrisons at Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, then in the hands of the British, he made himself master of the outposts, took an armed ship several gun-boats, 200 batteaux, a quantity of arms and ammunition, and retook a standard and about 100 American prisoners. Not being able to capture the forts, he returned with his booty to Gen. Lincoln. This brave soldier and patriot was killed at Stone Arabia, in Palatine, N. Y., in an ambuscade of Canadians, tories, and Indians, on his birth-day, Oct. 19, 1780, at the age of 36. Forty-five of his men were likewise killed, many of whom marched from this vicinity about one week before. They were led into the ambush by a traitor.

Col. Simon Larned was born at Thompson, Con., in 1756. He came to this town in 1784. He was an officer of merit in the Revolutionary war, and once represented this District in Congress. He was for many years Sheriff of this County, which station he filled with credit to himself and fidelity to the government. At the commencement of the late war with Great Britain, he was appointed Colonel of the 9th regiment of U. S. infantry, and served through the war. He died Nov. 16, 1817, aged 61 years.

Col. Oliver Root came into this town from Westfield, in 17—. He was a soldier in the second French war, and an officer in the war of the Revolution. He was with Col. Brown at the fatal encounter with the Canadians, tories, and Indians, in 1780. He died May 2d, 1826. aged 85.

Col. William Williams was among the first settlers of the town. He was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for this County, Judge of Probate, and a representative of the town for many years. He died April 5, 1788, aged 75.

Woodbridge Little, Esq., was the first lawyer in the town. He first studied theology, but only preached as a candidate, and afterwards studied law. He died June

21, 1813, aged 72, leaving most of his property to charitable institutions.

Thomas Gold, Esq., a distinguished lawyer and advocate, was born in Cornwall, Con., graduated at Yale College 1778, and settled in this town 1792. He sustained various offices, such as selectman of the town, President of the Agricultural Society, and President of the Agricultural Bank.

Charles Goodrich, Esq., came into this town from Wethersfield, Con., when there was but one building in it. He drove the first team into town, introduced and held the first plough. He was a member of the Provincial Congress, which was held at Concord, April 12, 1774, and a number of years a member of the General Court. He was also a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Berkshire. He lived 63 years in the town, and died Nov. 16, 1816, aged 96.

Hon. Timothy Childs was born at Deerfield, in this State, in 1748. He entered Harvard College in 1761, and studied physic and surgery under Dr. Williams, of Deerfield; and in 1771, at the age of 24, commenced practice in this town. No young man entered more zealously into the cause of the Revolution than Dr. Childs.

In 1774, he took a commission in a company of minute men, under the command of Capt. David Noble, and when the news of the battle of Lexington was received, he marched with the company to Boston, where he was soon after appointed a surgeon of the army. In 1777, he left the army and resumed his practice in this town, and continued in it till less than a week before his death, which happened on the 20th of February, 1821, at the age of 73.

Dr. Childs represented this town many years in the Legislature of this Commonwealth, and was likewise a number of times a member of the Senate. The University of Cambridge conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and President of the District Society, composed of Fellows of the State Society.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF DALTON,

BY REV. EBENEZER JENNINGS.

---

This town was formerly called Ashuelot, or Ashuelot Equivalent; because it was granted to Oliver Partridge and others, a company in Hatfield, to make up a loss they had sustained in a grant made to them on Ashuelot river, which was found, when the line was established between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, to be within the bounds of the latter State. The Legislature of New Hampshire claimed it of the company, so far as they had not made a disposition of it to actual settlers. The town was incorporated in 1784, and called Dalton, after the Hon. Tristram Dalton, then Speaker of the House of Representatives. The length was then about 6 miles, and the breadth about 3. In 1795, an addition was made to the town on the north-east from Windsor, so that the town is now 8 or 9 miles in length. In 1804, a part of the town, on the south-east, was united with a part of the town of Partridgefield, (now Peru) and formed into the present town of Hinsdale. Dalton is bounded by Cheshire on the north; by Windsor and Hinsdale on the east; by Hinsdale and Washington on the south; and by Pittsfield on the west. The rich and beautiful vale of Dalton is in the centre of the town, as the town *now lies*. The eastern branch of the Housatonic runs through it, and by a circuitous course encloses as on three sides, a charming elevation of ground of more than 100 acres, in the centre of the whole vale. Here the meeting-house stands, from which, probably, three-fourths of the houses in town may be seen. In this

vale, most of the business of the town is transacted. The turnpike from Boston to Albany, through Northampton, passes directly by the meeting-house The road to Pittsfield, 6 miles, is very good. Indeed, descending from Hinsdale, and entering Dalton near the foot of the mountain, the road through Pittsfield to the foot of Hancock mountain, 11 miles, is the best and most level, for that distance, of any passage from east to west through the County. There is no other opening in that direction equally excellent.

Dalton began to be settled about 1755. Dr. Marsh, a graduate of Harvard College, and a Judge of the County Court, was among the first settlers. So were the Chamberlains, the Merrimans, the Cadys, the Gallups, the Lawrences, the Parkses, Boardmans, &c. The venerable Dea. William Williams moved into the town some years after, from Hatfield. He was a leader and guide to the people for many years; an ornament and glory to the town, as a citizen and a christian. When the Free School was established in Williamstown, in 1785, he was appointed one of the trustees; and in 1793, he was appointed a trustee of Williams College. In 1797, 99, and 1800, he was a Senator in the State Legislature. He died March 1, 1808, aged 74.

The Rev. Theodore Hinsdale, a sound and able divine, who had been dismissed from a church in Windsor, Con., moved into Dalton a few years after Dea. Williams, and lived on a farm in that part of the town which was eventually set off to form the town of Hinsdale; thus called after his name.

This town is finely situated as to water privileges, which have as yet been improved but in part. Many are anxious that men of capital should come in and improve the unoccupied mill-sites. A furnace was erected here 27 years since, which did much business; but which, after some years, was burnt, and has not been rebuilt. There are now three paper-mills in operation, a grist-mill, and 5 saw-mills, all within about a mile of the meeting-house, from the extremes. We have a post-office in town, 3 stores, and 3 taverns.

There was formerly a very valuable pine forest in the town; but the demand for pine stuff has been so

great, that this source of wealth is almost exhausted. A great quantity of wood is yet to be found on the hills; from which a considerable gain is derived from markets out of town. Great quantities of hemlock are sawed into boards and timber and sold abroad. Spruce is much used for shingles. One *patent* shingle-mill furnishes a great many thousand shingles yearly for market. Hemlock bark, besides supplying two tanneries in town, is carried away in considerable quantities. A turning lathe is now put in operation, which works up chair-stuff for the New York market. A woollen factory is also in successful operation.

There is much second rate marble in the town, which yields to the chisel sufficiently for underpinning stones, but it is too hard for polished work.

Three wood mills have lately been erected which go by horse power, and are thought to be a great improvement. One of these mills will saw as much wood for stoves in a day as four men will chop. The great advantage is in the saving of labor, and in the saving of the chips, which would be in part lost in cutting wood short with an axe. Besides, it is difficult to split wood 4 feet long. But saw the wood 16 or 18 inches, and the blocks can be easily split One man will tend the mill, and split the blocks as fast as they are sawed, fine enough for the stove. In general, the mills should be built in the lot, near to the wood, that the bodies of the trees may be drawn to the mill without the trouble of loading the logs; and the tops can be cut with the axe at any length.

The land in general is very productive. Spring wheat is more easily raised than in many towns in the County, and the soil is very natural for Indian corn. The meadows on the river are not so extensive as on many towns below, through which the Housatonic passes.

Few towns in the County are more industrious than this through the whole year. During the winter, a man with a good team may earn almost as much as he would in the summer; while some towns, and especially mountain towns, can do little more in the winter than take care of their stock, and supply their fires; because they have no market for wood and timber. This town might

supply the town of Pittsfield, (as it perhaps has done,) with more wood and timber, and stuff from saw-mills, than any other town contiguous. This advantage our people will probably long enjoy.

The Congregational church was formed, Feb. 16, 1785. Successive candidates were employed for a number of years to supply the desk. In March, 1795, the Rev. James Thompson was ordained over the church and people. He continued with them until 1799, when he was dismissed. After this, Mr. Hinsdale supplied the pulpit generally, until the ordination of the present pastor, the Rev. Ebenezer Jennings, Sept. 8, 1802.

Since that time, there have been three spiritual refreshings: the last and most extensive was in 1827, when about 50, it is believed, obtained a hope that they were accepted of Christ. About that number were added to the Congregational church, as the fruits of it.

The Congregationalists have a parsonage, devised in the following manner: Dea. Williams solicited Col. Israel Williams and Dea. Obadiah Dickinson, both of Hatfield, for two lots of new land lying in Dalton, to be given to the Congregational church and society, and to be enjoyed by no others, for the encouragement and support of a learned ministry. And accordingly deeds were obtained, made to the deacons of the church, and their successors in office, of two lots of land, found to contain 285 acres. These were sold by permission of the General Court, and vested in other real estate, to be held to the same use. A parsonage house was purchased, with a farm of 70 acres. Thus God inclines the hearts of men to support the gospel of Christ.

The present meeting-house was built in 1812.

There are a few Baptist families among us, who go out of town, generally to Hinsdale, for their own worship.

There is a small society of Methodists, who commonly have preaching semi-monthly on the sabbath, in each alternate week. They arose principally in 1812, though there were some before that time.

We have 6 school districts.

The Union Library, established in Pittsfield and Dalton, Sept. 7, 1796, was divided in 1808. The part gi-

ven to this town, was called the Social Library of Dalton, and contained finally about 200 volumes. This has recently been dissolved: but an effort is making to establish another.

*Physicians.*

John Wright, Abel Kitredge, Trumbull Dorrance, and Caleb W. Ensign.

*Lawyers.*

Calvin Waldo; a graduate of Dartmouth College 1785; admitted to the bar in 1799; died Aug. 25, 1815, aged 56.

Henry Marsh; a native of this town; graduate of Williams College 1815; admitted to the bar in 1819.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH.

BY REV. HENRY B. HOOKER.

---

In January, 1741, Samuel Jackson and 75 others, inhabitants of Framingham, in the county of Middlesex, petitioned the General Court to grant them a tract of wilderness land, situated on the Housatonic river, near to an Indian town. The grant was made, and they were authorized to survey and locate "a township, of the contents of six miles square, adjoining south on Indian Town, (so called,) on the Housatonic river, or as near that place as the land would allow," upon certain conditions mentioned in said grant. Under this act, this township was surveyed and located. At a meeting, held Oct. 19, 1742, the proprietors voted to to call it *Richfield*, until a name should be given to it by the Legislature. It was afterwards called New Framingham.

The settlement was commenced about 1754 or 5, by Capt. Samuel Martin, a Mr. Brewer, and a Mr. Steales. A party of Indians, in the second French war, drove off these families, and Capt. Martin was the only one who returned. A fort for the protection of the settlement, was erected near where the house of Dea. Wolcott Hubbell now stands. On the approach of the Indians, the settlers fled to Pittsfield. A scout was sent after them from Massachusetts Fort. In following tracks which were found, two Indian chiefs were discovered, stooping down and tying on their moccasons. Each of the scouts selected one, and both chiefs were *killed* on the spot. The scout safely escaped to the

fort, though closely pursued by the Indians. A party immediately set out from the fort in search of the bodies of the slain chiefs, who found them buried in their war costume.

Among the earliest settlers, after those which have been mentioned, were Nathaniel Williams, Samuel Tyrrell, John, Ephraim, Elijah and Miles Powel, (four brothers,) Lieut. Andrew Squier, James Loomis, and Ambrose Hall. They all settled here as early as 1759. William Bradley, James Goodrich, Thaddeus Curtis, Ebenezer Squier, Benjamin and Joseph Farnum, settled here not far from that time.

The town was incorporated on the 20th of June, 1765, and then included a large part of the present town of Cheshire. It is bounded by New Ashford on the north; by Cheshire and Dalton on the east; by Pittsfield on the south, and by Hancock on the west. The length of the town from north to south is 6 miles; the breadth on the south is 6 miles, and on the north 3 miles and 20 rods.

The soil is generally of an excellent quality, consisting principally of a clay loam; and the chief attention of the inhabitants is turned towards grazing. Little grain is raised, beside what is needed for home consumption.

The south branch of the Hoosic rises in the south-east corner of the town. The west branch of the Housatonic enters the town from New Ashford, passes by the centre of the town, and runs through the large pond, called Lanesborough pond, into Pittsfield. This pond is partly in the latter town. It abounds with fish, such as pickerel, perch, and trout, and affords at its outlet some very valuable mill-sites. The principal settlements are on a street which extends several miles along the eastern side of this branch of the Housatonic. Here are the three houses of worship belonging to the different religious denominations. The neighbouring meadows are remarkably luxuriant and beautiful, while the hills beyond them strike the eye with great pleasure. The scenery from various points of elevation is picturesque and delightful.

Some valuable beds of iron ore have been found here, from which considerable quantities of iron were

formerly manufactured; though but little attention has been paid to them for some years.

There are several extensive quarries of valuable marble; some of which, in the western part of the town, were opened at an early period; others, near New Ashford, were opened 15 or 20 years ago. The principal are on the estates of Dea. Elijah Phelps, Abiel Platt, Bethuel Baker, and the Hon. Judge Savage, of New York. A large portion of the marble in the capitol at Albany, was transported from these quarries. Great quantities are now sent on the Western Canal into the interior of New York.

The number of inhabitants in 1810 was 1303, and in 1820, 1319. The number of deaths for the last 25 years is 487, averaging 19 annually. The largest number in a single year was 34, and the least 7.

There are 8 schools in town, 5 stores, 4 taverns, 1 grist-mill, 4 saw-mills, and 3 mills for sawing stone.

The Congregational church, consisting of 5 males and 3 females, was organized March 28, 1764, by Rev. Messrs. Samuel Hopkins, of Great Barrington, and Stephen West, of Stockbridge.

Before this, the Rev. Levi Hart, afterwards Dr. Hart, of Preston, Con., and Mr. Woodbridge Little, who afterwards became a distinguished inhabitant of Pittsfield, preached here for a short time. The first pastor, the Rev. Daniel Collins, was ordained April 17, 1764; and the first meeting-house was erected in 1768, though it was not entirely finished until several years after. The present meeting-house was built in 1828, and dedicated Jan. 1, 1829.

Mr. Collins continued in the ministry until he died, Aug. 26, 1822, in the 84th year of his age; though in the latter part of his life he had the assistance of a colleague.

He was born in Guilford, Con.; took his first degree at Yale College in 1760, where he sustained the reputation of a good classical scholar, and afterwards read theology with Dr. Bellamy, of Bethlehem. Settling here when the town was new, and discharging the various duties of a pastor, in seasons of prosperity and adversity, for nearly half a century, he had an extended and happy influence in forming the manners and habits

of the people. Some seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, occurred under his ministry. Sound in judgment, his counsel was often sought in cases of difficulty, by churches in the vicinity and at a distance. He possessed good sense, dignified manners, and exemplary piety; was affable, hospitable, and benevolent, and greatly beloved and esteemed in all the relations of life. He was first a trustee of the Free School, and then of the College in Williamstown.

In 1812, in consequence of infirmities, he was induced to desire a colleague; and on the 8th of July in that year, the Rev. John De Witt, of Catskill, N. Y., was associated with him in the pastoral office.

Mr. De Witt was dismissed on the 8th of Dec. 1813, and afterwards settled in the second Reformed Dutch Church in Albany. He is now a professor in the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, N. J.

The Rev. Noah Sheldon was settled as colleague with Mr. Collins, July 15, 1818, and became sole pastor upon Mr. Collins' death. He was dismissed, by reason of ill health, May 2, 1827, and now instructs a private school in Stockbridge, boarding the scholars in his own family.

The Rev. Henry B. Hooker, the present pastor, was *installed* on the day of Mr. Sheldon's dismission, having been previously ordained an evangelist.

| | |
|---|---|
| The number of members at the formation of the church, was | 8 |
| Mr. Collins (during his whole ministry) admitted | 283 |
| Mr. Sheldon admitted, after the death of Mr. C., | 14 |
| Mr. Hooker has admitted | 11 |
| Total, | 316 |

The number of members, at the commencement of the present year, was 74.

*Deacons.*

Ebenezer Buck; died 1805, aged 90.

Azariah Rood; removed to Vermont.

Nehemiah Bull; chosen 1780; died Dec. 1815, aged 77.

Ebenezer Squier; chosen 1783; died 1797, aged 67.

Andrew Squier; chosen 1798; died 1824, aged 93.

Gideon Wheeler; chosen 1809; died 1822, aged 77.
Wolcott Hubbell; do. 1818.
Elijah Phelps; do. do.
Zenas S. Clark; do. 1829.

The Episcopal church in this town, called St. Luke's church, was instituted by the Rev. Samuel Andrews, of Wallingford, Con., Oct. 2, 1767, and the house of worship belonging to this denomination was erected in 1783. The Rev. Gideon Bostwick, of Great Barrington, had the pastoral charge of the church, and preached to it occasionally from June 26, 1770, until his death, June 14, 1773.

The Rev. Daniel Burhans succeeded him immediately, and continued here until June, 1799, when he removed to Newtown, Con., where he still officiates.

The Rev. Mr. Thacher laboured in this church from Dec. 28, 1799, until June 18, 1801. He removed to Ballston, New York, where he died.

The Rev. Amos Pardee, graduate of Yale College, 1793, took the charge of the church, Feb. 13, 1802, and continued in it until Sept. 28, 1818, when he removed to the State of New York, where he has since been employed in missionary labours in different places.

The present rector, the Rev. Aaron Humphrey, was born and educated in the State of Maine, and took the charge of this church, March 9, 1820.

A revival which prevailed in the north part of the County in 1826, reached this people, and some souls were hopefully brought into the kingdom. The present number of communicants is about 50.

The Baptist church was formed in 1818, with 12 members. About 34 have been since admitted. The number of members reported at the last meeting of the Baptist Association, was 35.

The Baptists have enjoyed the labours of Elder Augustus C. Beach, and of Elder Richmond Taggart.

Joel Redway was chosen deacon of this church, July 13, 1822.

Their house of worship was erected in 1828, and dedicated Feb. 10, 1829.

*Physicians.*

Francis Guiteau; native of Bethlehem, Con.

Reuben Garlick; removed to Canada, and became an Episcopal clergyman.

Hezekiah Clark; native of Lebanon, Con.; removed to Pompey, N. Y.

Asa Burbank; native of Williamstown; graduate of Williams College 1797; died at Williamstown the present year.

Enoch Pierce; a native of Peru.

Joseph Jarvis; removed to the State of New York.

William H. Tyler; a native of New Ashford.

*Lawyers.*

Samuel W. Wheeler; native of this town; removed to the State of New York.

Chauncey Lusk; native of this town; graduate of of Williams College 1795; admitted to the bar in 1800; died 1803.

Luther Washburn; native of Hardwick; removed to Pittsfield.

Calvin Hubbell, Jun.; native of this place; graduate of Williams College 1810; admitted to the bar in 1813.

George N. Briggs; native of Adams; admitted to the bar in 1818.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF CHESHIRE.

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

---

This town was originally included in the towns of Lanesborough, New Ashford, Adams, and Windsor. It was incorporated by its present name, March 14, 1793. It is bounded by Lanesborough and New Ashford on the west; by Adams on the north; by Savoy, Windsor, and Dalton, on the east; and by Lanesborough on the south. The form is very irregular, as the line in passing round it, takes 21 different courses. The contents are between 17 and 18,000 acres.

The settlement commenced in 1767. Some of the earliest and principal settlers, were Joseph Bennet, Esq., Col. Joab Stafford, (from whom Stafford Hill in the north-east part of the town is named) and John Buckland, Esq., from Coventry, R. I.; John Lippit, from Scituate, R. I.; Samuel Low, Simon Smith, Amos Smith, Stephen Carpenter, Shubael Willmarth and John Willmarth, from Providence, in the same State; Jonathan Richardson, from Newton, Isaac Warren, from Framingham, and Charles Saben, from Killingly, Con. All these became inhabitants between 1767 and 70.

The centre of the town, through which the south branch of the Hoosic runs in a northern direction into Adams, is a rich and fertile valley. To the east and west of this, the ground gradually rises into hills and mountains. The township is admirably fitted for grazing, to which the attention of the inhabitants is principally turned; though considerable quantities of grain are raised. Extensive and valuable dairies are kept,

and the *Cheshire cheese* has acquired a wide and merited celebrity. The famous *mammoth cheese*, presented to President Jefferson, Jan. 1, 1802, contributed not a little to bring this into notice. On a given day, the dairy-women sent their curds to one place. The quantity was too great to be pressed, even in a cider-mill; so that in addition to the intended present, three additional cheeses were made, weighing 70 pounds each. The mammoth cheese weighed about 1450 lbs. Mr. Jefferson sent back a piece of this to the inhabitants to satisfy them of its excellence; and he also sent pieces of it, it is said, to the Governors of the several States.

Large beds of sand have been found here, suitable for making glass. A glass factory was erected in 1814, but abandoned as unprofitable in Sept. 1816. Notwithstanding this circumstance, however, the sand is said by competent judges to be of a superior quality, and worthy the attention of capitalists who are engaged in this branch of business. Large quantities of it have been used in the Glass Factory at Sand Lake, N. Y., some has been transported to Boston and used there. Small quantities of iron ore have also been found.

There is a small cotton factory in the north part of the town, on Hoosic river. There are also in the town 1 grist-mill, 8 saw-mills, 2 clothiers' works, and a small tannery, 3 merchant stores and 4 taverns.

The population in 1810 was 1315, and in 1820, 1202.

The inhabitants from the beginning have been very generally of the Baptist denomination. There are two houses for public worship belonging to this denomination, one at Stafford's Hill, and one at the Four Corners, in the west part of the town.

The first Baptist church was formed at Stafford's Hill, Aug. 28, 1769. Elder Peter Werden was the settled pastor of this church from 1770 until his death, which occurred Feb. 21, 1808, in the 80th year of his age, having been in the ministry a longer period than any Baptist clergyman then in New England. He was born in Warwick, R. I.; in which town and vicinity he preached about 19 years before he came to this place. Sound in judgment, rich in experience, and deeply conversant with the doctrines of grace, he was a good minister of Christ, and a great blessing to this town.

Several seasons of revival occurred under his ministry. To the Baptist churches in the County he was a friend and father.

Since his death, the church has successively enjoyed the labours of Elders Bartemus Brayman, Samuel Bloss, and Noah Y. Bushnel. The first and second of these clergymen now reside in the State of New York; the third is the present pastor. The church has been large, though the present number of members is but about 30.

As it was inconvenient for the people in the west part of the town to attend meeting at Stafford's Hill, the second Baptist church was formed at the Four Corners, Sept. 21, 1771, consisting of 17 members, and placed under the care of Elder Nathan Mason, from Nova Scotia.

In consequence of the feeble health of Elder Mason, the church in 1792 deemed it necessary that they should have another preacher, and on the 21st of April in that year, Elder John Leland became their pastor. Not long after this, Mr. Mason died at Westfield, while on a visit to his children living in that town.

From this church a third Baptist church was formed of 15 members, Jan. 15, 1824. It is under the care of Elder Elnathan Sweet, and embraced in May last, 45 members.

In July, 1823, a society of the Reformed Methodists was formed in town, and the Methodist class contains nearly 40 members.

The most extensive revivals were in 1772, 1780, and 1799. In 1823, there was a favorable movement on the minds of some of the inhabitants, and additions were made to the churches; and there has been some special attention to religion since that time.

The district schools are 10 in number.

*Physicians.*

John Johnson, William Jenks, David Cushing, Isaac Hodges, ——— Seagrave, Nathaniel Gott, John Lion, ——— McLouth, Mason Brown.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF NEW ASHFORD.

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

---

This town is about 4 miles square, and is bounded by Williamstown on the north, by Adams and Cheshire on the east, by Lanesborough on the south, and by Hancock on the west, from which the western portion of it was taken. It began to be settled about 1762, by emigrants from the eastern parts of this State, from Rhode Island and Connecticut. Among the early settlers were Nathaniel, Abel, and Gideon Kent, Uriah, Peter, and Eli Mallery, William Green, Jacob Lion, Samuel Gridley, Jonathan Beach, Samuel P. Tyler, Abraham Kirby, William Campbell, Amariah Babbit, Evans Rice, Capt. Martin, and a Mr. Mason.

The place was incorporated as a district, Feb. 26, 1781, and enjoys all the privileges of a town, except that it cannot elect a representative to the Legislature; a privilege which it formerly enjoyed in connection with Lanesborough.

The township is situated principally on the steep and rugged hills which make from Saddle mountain on the east, and the Taconic range on the west, and which here approach each other. In the narrow valley between these hills, along the rise of the western branch of the Housatonic, and the eastern branch of Green river, are some small tracts of more feasible land, producing grain, grass, &c., though the soil in general is hard and gravelly, and of an indifferent quality. By these streams, with the connected springs and brooks, the town is well watered. The branch of Green river, on which are

several mill-sites, runs northward into Williamstown, receives the branch from Hancock, and finds its way into the Hoosic. The rise of this stream is near the rise of the western branch of the Housatonic, which takes an opposite direction, and flows into Lanesborough.

The principal road north and south through the County, runs near these streams. It has recently been laid over more level grounds in the north part of the town, and greatly improved. Gentlemen, acquainted with the subject, are of the opinion that important improvements may be made at the south.

There are about 50 dwelling-houses in the town, and about 55 families. A small neat house for public worship, (a union house,) was erected here in 1828, and dedicated in January, 1829. There are 3 school-houses, one tavern, one store, two saw-mills, one grist-mill, and one mill for sawing stone.

Valuable quarries of white and blue marble were opened here six or seven years since, and already furnish a considerable branch of business. The blocks, after they are removed from their beds, are sawed into slabs, and sold in the neighbouring places, and at Hudson river.

Formerly some of the inhabitants used to attend public worship in Lanesborough and Williamstown; and some still frequent the neighbouring churches. Most of the inhabitants, however, are Methodists, who enjoy circuit preaching here one half of the time. There are 30 professors of this denomination. There are some Baptists, who occasionally enjoy preaching from ministers of their own denomination; though no Baptist church is organized in the place. Individuals are attached to other denominations.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN.

BY EBENEZER KELLOGG,

*Professor of Languages in Williams College.*

---

WILLIAMSTOWN is in the north-west corner of the Commonwealth. The township is nearly 7 miles long from north to south, and a little more than 5 miles from east to west, and nearly of a rectangular form; wanting only a small piece at the north-west corner, cut off by the line of the State of New York. It is bounded north by Pownal, in the State of Vermont; east by Clarksburgh and Adams; south by New Ashford and Hancock; and on the west, it is separated from Berlin and Petersburgh in the State of New York, by a gore of unincorporated land a mile in width at the south end, and terminated in a point, a mile and a half from the north end of the town, which is bounded this distance by Petersburgh in New York.

Its boundary lines are far up the sides of the mountains, by which it is almost surrounded. The north-west corner is on the eastern slope of West mountain, half a mile or more from the ridge. The north line runs across North-West hill, a little north of the highest point of it, and passes south of the top of Mason's hill in Pownal. The north-east corner is about half way up the North-East mountain. The eastern line passes a little west of a small prominence, called the Pine Cobble, toward the south part of the mountain, a little obliquely through the length of the valley between the two great ridges of Saddle mountain. The south line

of the town includes the high point at the north end of the South mountain which separates New Ashford from Hancock. The south-west corner is in the highway, on the Hancock road to Albany. The west line runs a straight course, obliquely up the side of the mountain, until it strikes the New York line near the top of the mountain, a little north of the Gap at the head of Treadwell hollow, and then follows the State line to the north-west corner. The town may, therefore, be described, in general terms, as a valley, having four easy passages from it on different sides; one on the north, by which the Hoosic passes to Pownal; a second on the east, near the north-east corner, by which the Hoosic comes in from Adams; a third on the south side, near the middle, by which the east branch of Green river comes in from New Ashford; and a fourth at the south-west corner, by which the west branch of Green river enters from Hancock. The first of them communicates with Bennington and the western part of Vermont, and is the usual route to Troy in N. Y.; the second, with Franklin county and the eastern side of Vermont, and is also the common road to Boston; the third opens an easy way to the central and southern parts of the County; and the fourth looks towards Hudson, and is the common route to Albany.

Besides the slopes and points of mountains already mentioned as being within the limits of the town, there are two or three large hills lying wholly or mostly within them. "North-West hill," several hundred feet above the bed of the Hoosic, is separated from West mountain by a slight depression, and on the south-west and south in like manner from "Birch hill," a much higher eminence, formed by a spur of the West mountain, shooting off toward the south-east, and reaching almost to Stone hill. The south-eastern part of Birch hill is called "Bee hill." In the angle between Birch hill and West mountain, is a deep valley, called "The Hollow," and sometimes "Treadwell hollow," of such extent and population as to compose a small school district.

Near the centre of the town, and midway between the two villages, is "Stone hill," of very irregular form, and great extent. Its extreme northern and southern

points are three miles distant, and approach the two villages. On most sides it descends gradually to the valleys which separate it from the surrounding hills and mountains. But in some places on the east and west sides, it makes some part of the descent very rapidly. The County road, till lately, passed over it, with some windings, from one village to the other; but the ascent and descent are so considerable, especially on the north, that a new road is opened farther west along the valley *between this and Bee hill, called "the Hemlocks."* The mountain north-east of the north village, was long called "Bald mountain," having been rendered almost naked by frequent fires, so that deer, which were very numerous here, might be seen upon it from the valley adjacent.

The largest stream in the town is the Hoosic,* which enters it on the east from Adams, and running first W. by N. and then N. by W. crosses the north line into Pownal, after a course of about 4 miles in the town. It has a descent of 94 feet in this distance, and its usual width is 100 feet or more. Its waters might be advantageously employed for manufacturing purposes, by taking them from the bed of the river into canals. Its largest tributary is "Green river," coming from the south between Stone hill and Saddle mountain, and having its sources on the two sides of the mountain lying between New Ashford and Hancock. Its course is 10 or 12 miles, and it furnishes several mill-sites; but its waters are sometimes scanty in summer. It enters the Hoosic about two miles from the east line of the town. Two or three miles from its mouth, it receives a considerable stream from the east, which issues from the Hopper.† "Doctor's brook"‡ issues from Treadwell hollow, and passing round the base of Bee hill, turning north, and being joined by a small stream, called "Roaring

* In all early times it was called "the Great River," and there was no bridge over it, even on the County road, till 1765.

†The place where these streams meet, used to be called "Taylor's crotch;" by which name it is often mentioned in the records of the town.

‡ So called from Dr. Jacob Meak, who, about the time of the incorporation of the town, lived on the bank of it, between the burying ground and the river, where his descendants still live.

brook," which in part separates Bee and Birch hills, finds its way to the Hoosic, about a mile before it enters Vermont. "Hemlock brook" comes from between North-West hill and Birch hill, and empties into Doctor's brook. "Broad brook" receives at the foot of Pownal mountain the waters that come from the valleys to the south-west and south-east of it, and turns west into the Hoosic. Both these last mentioned streams are large enough to work saw-mills at some seasons of the year. A great number of smaller ones gush from the hills on every side.

The general character of the soil is clayey; but in few places is the clay so hard and stiff as to be injurious to its fertility. Loam predominates in some places, and a few spots of some extent, may be called gravelly. Some of the best lands lie along the Hoosic, particularly in the eastern part of the town, though not a very large part is properly called "meadow." A pretty large tract in the south part of the town, about the junction of the two principal branches of Green River, and along up those streams is also particularly fertile and beautiful. But the hills also, and generally the mountain sides, almost, and sometimes quite, up to their tops, have a good, and in many places, an excellent soil, suited both to grazing and tillage; though generally best for the former. There is in the town very little swampy or marshy land, and the hill pastures are not overrun, as in many parts of the country, with moss and ferns, those unfailing signs of a cold and barren soil.

The town is remarkably a *farming-town*, having few manufactories or mechanics' shops of any kind, except such trades as are absolutely necessary for the convenience of the inhabitants. A cotton factory, intended to employ 40 hands, has just gone into operation on Green river; another is building on the Hoosic in the east part of the town, and a company is incorporated with the purpose to erect a third on the same stream near the North village. Leather manufactured here is sent abroad to market, to the amount of 4,000 or 5,000 dollars a year. The pastures furnish most that is carried to market. There are a great number of dairies of twenty cows, and a few have a much larger number. The

quantity of cheese carried to market annually is estimated at two hundred thousand pounds. Butter in smaller quantities, cattle for the butcher, and for stock, pork, wheat, rye, oats, and some barley, are the other principal resources of the farmer against such wants as his own farm does not supply. Wool growing has not been attempted to such an extent, nor with so much success, as in some other towns in the county; but there are a few flocks of sheep of some hundreds each. Winter wheat was raised easily and in great plenty, for a long course of years when the town was first settled; but is now very rarely sown.

This township and "East Hoosic," now Adams, were explored and their limits traced, by a Committee of the General Court in 1749. The Commmittee consisted of Col. Partridge of Hatfield, and Col. Choate and Capt. Nat. Dwight of Belchertown. Both towns were intended to be six miles square, but for some reason they were laid out about seven miles long and five wide. It cannot be ascertained in what year it was granted, as there is no copy of the grant on the files of the proprietors, and only some fragments of the papers relating to it can be found in the office of the Secretary of State.

The settlements of this town like that of others at that day was retarded by Indian hostilities. Nehemiah Smedly, William and Josiah Horsford, and some other young men, came to prepare for themselves and families a settlement here, it is believed, in 1751 or 1752. But they were interrupted by the increasing hostility of the Indians in those years. Returning to Connecticut, they enlisted in a company raised to protect the frontiers, and came again with others to this place and garrisoned a fort, which stood a few rods north of the present meeting house, and also a block house near the west College. A few soldiers were kept here in garrison till 1760. But the inhabitants were exposed to frequent alarms. Some were carried into captivity, and in an attack July 11, 1756, Capt. Chapin and two persons by the name of Chidestre were killed. These dangers nearly ceased after 1759, and peace was concluded between England and France in 1763. These events and the incorporation of the town in 1765 led to

a rapid increase, and the inhabitants were for a number of years unable to raise grain enough for the growing population.

The place was called West Hoosuck, until the time of its incorporation as a town in 1765. The records of the proprietors are inscribed, "Proprietors' Book of the West Township at Hoosuck." The first meeting of the proprietors, of which any record is preserved, was held Dec. 5, 1753, by virtue of a warrant of William Williams, Esq., of Pittsfield, issued in pursuance of a vote of "the General Court of Massachusetts Bay," Sept. 10, 1753. But "the house lots," so called, had been laid out in the north part of the town, previous to this meeting. They were laid on both sides of a principal street, fifteen rods in width and a mile and $\frac{8}{10}$ths in length, reaching from Green river on the east to Hemlock brook on the west. This street runs over the highest part of three eminences; on the first of which stands the East College and the Chapel, on the second the West College, and on the third the meeting-house; and also over the northern point of a larger hill, lying between Doctor's brook and Hemlock brook. These lots were 120 rods in length, and 13$\frac{1}{3}$ in width upon the street, containing 10 acres each. Seventeen were laid on each side of the street west of the meeting-house, and eleven on each side of it between the meeting-house and the corner near the residence of the late Judge Dewey. Between these and Green river, were laid six more on the north side, and one on the south. This last was laid lengthwise by the side of the street, on account of the nearness of Green river in the rear.

These lots were laid in this manner, in the expectation that lots of this size would soon be taken up by actual settlers, and that the settlement would thus give, while it received, support from the fort, which stood near the middle of it. One undesirable result of this measure was, that the lots were settled in part by men of smaller property, and less enterprize and force of character, who would neither have taken mere house lots for a close built village, nor purchased full sized farms. This injurious effect was attempted to be corrected by the method of distributing the other lands afterwards among the proprietors; but without full suc-

tess. It was another disadvantage of this plan, that in fixing the location of the street, with reference to this temporary object, it was not laid on the ground most suitable for a village.

The principal street was crossed at the meeting-house by another perpendicular to it. Around this plat, which was 467 rods in length, and, but for the encroachment of Green river on the south-east corner, 265 rods in width, a highway was laid: but it never has been opened, except for a small distance at the north-west corner, on the sides contiguous to it. These lots were laid some time between 1749 and 1753, and the first settlements were mostly made on them.

In drawing for them, *three* lots were drawn by Lieut. Sam Brown, *two* each by Sam. Calhoun, W. Chedestre, Lieut. Obadiah Dickenson, Josiah Dean, Eb. Graves, Lieut. Moses Graves, Thos. Moffat, John Moffat, Æneas Machay, Josiah Williams, Eph. Williams, Jr., and Lieut. Isaac Wyman; and *one* each by Elisha Allis, Lem. Avery, Oliver Avery, Elijah Brown, Reuben Belding, Sam. Brown, Jr., John Bush, John Chamberlain, Capt. Elisha Chapin, John Crafford, Elizur Dickenson, Joel Dickinson, Aaron Denio, Daniel Donnilson, Ezekiel Foster, Nath. Harvey, Micah Harrington, Jos. Halley, Esq., Daniel Haws, Lieut. Elisha Hawley, Col. Oliver Partridge, Nath. Russell, Abner Roberts, Jos. Smith, Doct. Seth Hudson, Benj. Simonds, Sam. Smith, Thos. Train, Sam. Taylor, Geo. Willis, Esq., Tim. Woodbridge, Elisha Williams, Jr., and Sam. Wells. These were probably proprietors of the town. Only a few of them seem ever to have been actual settlers; and of these no descendants retaining the family name, and a very small number of others, are now inhabitants of the place.

The first meeting of the proprietors on record, Dec. 5, 1753, was at the house of Seth Hudson, who then lived on the corner south-west of the meeting-house. Rachel, the daughter of Col. B. Simonds, born April 8, 1753, was the first child of English parentage born in the town, or according to others, Esther, daughter of William Hosford. Col. Simonds, very early, if not from the beginning, lived on the lot next west of S. Hudson, where he subsequently built the house long occupied by

Gen. Thompson J. Skinner. The back part of this house, built about 1760, was long the oldest house standing, and was long time a tavern. The house is now entirely rebuilt. Richard Stratton, from Western, was a very early settler, and a leading man. He built the house in which G. T. Bulkley, Esq. now lives, the oldest two story house in the town. His brother Ichabod came some time after him, and presently went away. Jonathan and James Meacham, cousins, from New Salem, came early. Jonathan lived in 1766, and some time before, near the College spring, and afterwards on Bee hill, where the Hickocks now are. James lived near where his family now resides. Thomas Train lived near the present house of Hon. Daniel Noble, and in other places. Thomas Dunton, from Western, or its neighborhood, lived on Hoosic river, near Noble's bridge; —— Wilson and Derick Webb, between D. Noble's and Green river. Opposite these, was Elkanah Paris, a Quaker, in the house nearest the river, on the south side of the street, who afterwards lived near Sam. Kellogg's, and then built the house in which Stephen Bacon lives, north of Saddle mountain; Capt. Isaac Searle lived where Timo. Northam now lives, Wm. and Josiah Hosford, from Canaan, Con., lived opposite the West College, the latter on the lot afterwards built upon by Gen. Sloan; the former where T. and J. P. Whitman reside, and built the house now standing there. Lieut. Sampson Howe came about 1774, and had a house a few rods north-west of the meeting-house, where a gambrel house now stands; afterwards near Sam. Kellogg's barn, on the south side of the road. John Newbre lived just west of the burying ground. Elisha Higgins lived on the hill, nearly opposite the burying ground, and at another time near the present house of Capt. Thomas F. Hoxsey. Capt. Nehemiah Smedley, from Litchfield, Con., came very early; five brothers and four sisters came later, and was on the same lot as Seth Hudson, probably after him. The orchard on this place is said to be the oldest in the town, and to have been planted in 1754 by N. Smedley. It was in bearing in 1765. Exchanging this place with Dr. Page, for a lot purchased of the Rev. Mr. Welch, he built upon it, 1772, the next oldest house now remaining in town,

occupied by his oldest son, just across Green river. One of the barns now standing there is much older than the house.

Among the earliest settlers in the north part of the town, who fixed themselves on the out lots, were, on the road to Adams, Sam. Kellogg, from Canaan, Con., about 1761, where his son of the same name now lives. Deac. Nathan Wheeler, of Stratford, last from New Milford, before 1765, lived on the lot now held by Wm. Sherman, Jr.; Mr. Seeley, from Dutchess county, N. Y., was on this lot first, but went soon to Pownal. His sons returned after a few years; Elisha Baker, from Roxbury, Con., settled near where Ira Ford lives; Absalom, his son, where Aaron Foote lives, and William Hines, from Woodbury, Con., opposite the small gambrel-roofed house in the same street. Seth Luce, from Western, about 1768, planted himself near the northwest corner of Saddle mountain, beyond Mr. Alden's, and Joshua Perry, from Western, settled near him.

In Water street, along Green river, David Nichols, from Middletown, Con., 1768, a tanner, sat down where Henry Hurlbut now lives; Jedediah Smedley where John Day now is; Stephen Davis where Oren Kellogg lives; Titus Harrison, from Litchfield, near Town's mills, which he built and owned; Isaac Ovits and his brother Thomas, from New Milford, about 1768, lived in the lot north-east of Blair's; Josiah Wright, from Wethersfield, 1764, where Wm. Blair now is, and his father a little east, where is now a brick house.

Among those who earliest fixed themselves in *East street*, were — Byam, father of Jesse Byam, from Tempeton, about 1767, where Potter now lives, and Sam. Burchard, about 1780, from Danbury, having first lived a while in South street, where Geo. Reed lives. Joseph Wheeler was near him in South street, after first living where Elisha Williams does in Water street.

Asa Johnson, from Canaan, Con., who came about 1762, and went away before 1772, lived near where Col. Sam. Tyler now lives, half a mile north of the meeting-house, and was succeeded by Rob. Hawkins, from New Milford, Con. John Smedley lived by the side of the Hoosic, not far from Pownal, near Russel Barret's. Derrick Smith, from Connecticut, was an early settler, and

long lived in the house on the line between this State and Vermont. Jos. Talmadge, from Colchester, Con., planted himself very early on the spot held till lately by his family on N. W. hill. A Mr. Southwick, from New Salem, set down just west of where Elisha Higgins first lived, and Stephen Olmsted, from Danbury, Con., about 1773, on the turnpike over the west mountain, near the Gore. Nathan Smith, known during the latter part of his life as "Governor Smith," came very early from Western, lived in several parts of the town, and died in 1820, at the age of 102 years.

The fine lands at the south end of the town, were laid out very early as a part of the "hundred acre lots," next after the "house lots" and "meadow lots." But the settlements here were begun later. It was not till about 1760 that Isaac Stratton, son of Richard, began on the spot ever since occupied by a tavern in the centre of the village. He was there alone about three or four years. Daniel Burbank, from Western, built about 1764, on the spot where his family still resides, half a mile on the road to New Ashford. His *first* house was a framed building of one room. Robert McMaster from Brimfield, settled in 1763 on the lot now held by his son. His brother John at the same time began half a mile west of the village, near Norman Eldridge's. Moses Rich, from the same place, planted himself near the same spot at the same time. Bartholomew Woodcock came in 1765 from Milford, Con. and set down near where he still lives; the oldest settler and householder now in town. His brother Nehemiah came in 1769 and built at the fork of the roads a mile north of the south village, still called Woodcock's corner. David Johnson, from Middletown, Con., about 1763, began the farm of Gurdon Bulkley on Stone hill, and built the house on it lately pulled down. His marriage with Phebe Cole, from Canaan, Con., was the first celebrated here by the Rev. Mr. Welch. Sam. Sloan, a native of Norwalk, came from Canaan, Con., and began between the village and Woodcock's corner about 1766, and his brother Alexander came soon, and afterwards built the house there, now occupied by Gershom Bulkley. Thomas Roe, in 1764, from Canaan, began where Dan *Foster*, Esq. now lives. Jesse and Ichabod Southwick,

from New Salem, came as early as 1763. Jesse lived by the Corbens, and Ichabod by the side of Green river, on the lot known as Hubbell's farm. John and Wm. Torrey came from Middletown about 1767. William began the farm now held by his son, Deac. David Torrey. John was a little south-east of him. Capt. Samuel Clarke, from Washington, Con., about 1765, lived where the widow Young now does.

Among the very early settlers at the S. end of the town were also Moses, Andrew, and Wm. Young, from Western, Zebediah Sabin, from Killingly, Con., David Johnson, 2d., from Thompson, Con.; Asa, Amasa, and Joseph Corben, from New Haven, Con., Samuel Mills and Isaac, Jonathan, and Sam. Sherwood, from Connecticut, and —— Deming, from Wethersfield, Con., the descendants of most of whom occupy the lands cleared by their fathers.

Of those who came somewhat later to the town, but before 1800, and who still remain here either they or a part of their families, Doct. Samuel Porter came from Northampton, Jonathan Danforth from Western, Daniel Dewey from Sheffield, William Starkweather from Preston, Con. George Krigger from Hoosic, N.Y. John Hickcox from Granville, William B. Sherman and Thomas F. Hoxsey from Kingston, R. I. Obadiah Bardwell and Daniel Harris from Heath, T. and J. P. Whitman, from Hartford, Con., Samuel Rossiter from Richmond, Nathaniel and Chas. Kellogg, from Bolton, Con.

The town received also a large number of inhabitants at different times between 1770 and 1800, from Colchester, Con., including all the Bulkleys, Bridgeses, Chamberlains, Days, Fords, Judds, Northams, Skinners, Tylers, Judah and Elisha Williams, Elijah Thomas and Solomon Wolcott.

A considerable part of the earlier settlers did not come until after the incorporation of the town, which took place in 1765. The first town meeting was held the 15th of July, 1765. From the "List" of that year, it appears that the taxable polls were 59, oxen 57, cows 75, and sheep 83. The two largest dairies were of six cows each, and there were two others of four The largest flock of sheep was 18; the next 14, 13,

and 11. "Improvements were "listed" at 15*s.* the acre, and amounted to £426; from which it appears that about 578 acres were then under cultivation. Asa Johnson was rated for two mills, Nehemiah Smedley for £126 at interest, and Isaac Searle for £700. In the list of 1766 there were 74 polls, in 1768, 102; while "the voters by law" were only 20; in 1770, 119 polls; in 1774, the polls at the north end were 108; south end, 98, in the town 206, and on the Gore west of the town, 12; in 1776, 220 in the town, and the valuation of the town was £5921, viz. of the north part £3535, the south part £2372. The number of rateable polls now (1829) is 352; of which 223 are taxed in the Congregational parish. The valuation of the town is now $353,000. The population was in 1810, 1843; in 1820, 2010.

This population is very much scattered. There are about eighty dwelling-houses within a mile of the Colleges, of which something more than half stand compactly enough to be called a village, in which there are four or five stores and two taverns. The south village is smaller. In each of these villages there is a post office. The town employs three physicians and two lawyers.

The following is believed to be a complete list of the physicians who have practised here, arranged with some reference to the order of time:

Jacob Meak, Wm. Page, —— Hutchinson, —— Camp, John Johnson, Ezra Baker, Elisha Baker, Remembrance Sheldon, Wm. Towner, Sam. Porter, Solomon Wolcott, Lonson Porter, Sam. Smith, Alfred Perry, Lyndon A. Smith, John Adams, Jr., Albert G. W. Smith, Eben. Emmons, Henry L. Sabin.

The following is a list of the lawyers:

David Noble, Daniel Dewey, Daniel Noble, Ambrose Hall, Douglas W. Sloane, Charles A. Dewey, Homer Bartlett, Daniel N. Dewey, Charles Baker.

The settlers of this town early showed their wish and purpose to introduce and cherish here the literary and religious institutions by which they had been nurtured in the towns from which they came. Were new settlements at the present day equally ready to bestow the necessary care and expense on the same objects, these

invaluable blessings of life and safeguards of liberty, would be now planted through all our States, so generally as to leave little for us to wish or to do in their behalf.

In laying out the home lots, one lot on corner northeast of the meeting-house was reserved for the first minister who should be settled; another contiguous to it, for the support of the ministry, and a lot on the southeast corner for the support of schools. The out lots afterwards drawn against the numbers of these three home lots were appropriated to the same uses. The school and ministry lands were sold in 1772 for £328; and the ministry *house* lot in 1777.

In the warning for the second meeting of the proprietors in April, 1751, an article was inserted, "to see if the proprietors will have the gospel preached in this town this summer, or some part of it." No measures on the subject were adopted, however, at that time, and there is no record of any proprietors' meeting for the next six years, until 1760; when it was voted, Oct. 1, to hire preaching for six months. March 10, 1763, it was voted to have preaching "*for the future;*" and 16th of Nov. following, "to give Mr. Gideon Warren a call to preach on probation." Two years after this, and immediately after the incorporation of the town, the proprietors called Mr. Welch "to the work of the ministry in this town," July 26, 1765. His settlement was £89, ($267) to be paid one half the first year, the other half the year following. His salary was at first £40 a year, and was to be increased £3 annually until it should amount to £70. He was besides to have the use of the ministry *house* lots, but not the out lots.

He was ordained the latter part of the year 1765, and was the pastor of the church near twelve years. In the winter of 1776, he went with the American army to Canada as chaplain, in a regiment to which a party belonged, commanded by Lieut. Zebadiah Sabin, of this town. Mr. Welch died of the small pox, in March of the same year, near Quebec. He was a native of Milford, Con. His father dying early, the care of his education devolved on an uncle with whom he went to reside in New Milford. He was graduated at Yale College in 1762. He was a man of intelligence and activity, attentive to the duties of his office, and serious and

earnest in the performance of them. His religious opinions seem to have agreed with those of the clergy of that day, that are now spoken of as approaching to Arminianism. He always wrote his sermons, and delivered them with animation and propriety of manner. He was social in his habits, fond of conversation, in which he was often sportive and shrewd, and sometimes, perhaps, too gay and jocose. In person he was rather short and light. He was fond of athletic exercises, and excelled in them, whenever the manners of the day allowed him to join in them. He married Marvin, the daughter of Deac. Gaylord, of New Milford; to which place she returned with a small family after his death, and married there again and lived to a great age.

The records of the church during his ministry, and previous to it, have not been preserved, and it is not known when the church was gathered, nor what were its numbers, until the time of his successor.

The Rev. Seth Swift, a native of Kent, Con., and a graduate of Yale College in 1774, was ordained May 26, 1779. The settlement voted him was £200, and the salary £60; to be increased £5 a year till it should amount to £80.

The church, at the commencement of his ministry, consisted of 61 members, and 273 were added during his ministry of nearly 28 years. Of these, 52 were received by letter. The largest additions during the period, were 23 in 1780, 23 in 1781, 54 in 1805, and 53 in 1806; 36 were received in 1807 after his death. He died after a short illness, Feb. 15, 1807. The following entry on the records of the church, testifies their affection and esteem for their pastor. "At about 9 o'clock, A. M. the Rev. Seth Swift, our much esteemed, dearly beloved, and very faithful and laborious pastor, died, in the midst of great usefulness, while God was pouring out his Spirit here, and giving him many seals of his ministry." The Rev. Daniel Collins, of Lanesborough, preached his funeral sermon. Mr. Swift was a little above the middle stature, with a strong frame, and large features; not at all studious of the graces of dress, manners, or conversation, warm and open in his temper, evangelical in his religious views, serious in the general tone of his intercourse with his people, zealous in the labours of

the ministry, decided in his opinions, and prudent and energetic in his measures.

The people remained without a pastor more than six years; in which time, besides the 36 beforementioned, 67 were admitted to the church, of whom 47 were received in 1812, after a season of great and general seriousness.

The Rev. Walter King was installed as pastor of the church, July 6, 1813, and died here of an apoplectic attack, which came upon him in the pulpit, Dec. 1, 1815, at the age of 57. He was a native of Wilbraham, Mass. and was graduated at Yale College in 1782. He was ordained over the second church in Norwich, Con., in May, 1787, and continued there more than 24 years. He was dismissed from this situation on account of a difference of opinion with the church, respecting the lawfulness of marrying the sister of a deceased wife. His salary at Williamstown was between 500 and 600 dollars. During his ministry here, of little more than two years, the admissions to the church were 21. His funeral discourse was pronounced by Rev. President Moore.

A short obituary notice of Mr. King may be found in the Panoplist for March, 1816, understood to be from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Hyde, of Lee, in which he is honoured as a "sound divine, a solemn and searching preacher, and eminently a man of prayer."

The Rev. Ralph Wells Gridley, son of the Rev. Elijah Gridley, of Granby, in this Commonwealth, and a graduate of Yale College in 1814, was ordained Oct. 9, 1816.

After the death of Mr. King, 12 persons were admitted to the church before the ordination of his successor, and since that time, 378. The *whole* number in 1803, was 84; in 1807, 195; and on the 1st of Jan. last was 426. The population of the town has been at some times very changeful, and the number of admissions to the church by letter, and of dismissions with recommendation, has been remarkably large.

Nathan Wheeler and James Meacham were the first deacons in the church. Deacon Wheeler removed from town in 1784, and Deacon Meacham died, August, 1813, aged 79. Deacon Ebenezer Stratton was chosen as successor of Deacon Wheeler, and died in 1814, at

the age of 68. Zadock Ford and Benjamin Skinner were chosen deacons in 1806, and Deodatus Noble in 1814. In 1828 Deacon Skinner died, aged 78; and Levi Smedley, Andrew Beers, and Dr. Ebenezer Emmons were chosen deacons.

Religious worship was celebrated ten or twelve years in a school-house standing on the corner lot north-east of the present meeting-house, and a little back of the barn now standing there. The first proposal to build a meeting-house, was in Jan. 1766. It was renewed in December of the same year, and it was then voted to build a house 40 feet by 30, and to raise £180 for this purpose. The business was so exclusively in the hands of the *proprietors*, that they refused, April, 1768, to let the town have any voice in fixing the site of the house.

The house built for public worship by the proprietors in 1768, continued to be used for that purpose until 1798. But attempts to build a new one began as early as 1777; when it was voted (Jan. 6,) to build a meeting-house "near the centre of the town." The same thing was voted again, March 8, 1779, and also that the south part should have their portion of preaching there, until there should be a meeting-house in the centre. A "stake" was set for the meeting-house by a committee, and the site approved by vote of the town, July, 1781, on a height of land the east side of the County road, a quarter of a mile north of the present dwelling-house of Gurdon Bulkley, on the top of Stone hill, about midway between the two meeting-houses since erected. Jan. 24, 1785, it was voted by the town to build a meeting-house in the south part; the town to pay toward it the assessed value of the meeting-house in the north part, subsequently valued at £170. This plan failed. It was again voted, April 10, 1793, to build, if "the spot could be agreed on." This agreement could not be effected, and a proposal was made to divide the town, which was negatived, Jan. 2, 1794; and eleven days after, the town voted to raise £2000 to build. After fruitless attempts to carry this vote into execution, it was reconsidered, March 29, 1796, and in Sept. following, the town allowed a house to be built by the proprietors, the old one to be removed, and used as a town house. The house now standing near the site of the old

one, was soon erected. It is 76 feet long, and 55 in width, and cost about $6000. The house at the south part was erected about 1812 by subscription. Its dimensions are 57 feet by 42, and the cost was about $3500. This house was erected by the united exertions of Congregationalists and Baptists, and is used by them jointly.

The labours of the pastor of the Congregational church on the Sabbath, have been enjoyed by the people at this end of the town every third Sabbath, since the early part of Mr. Swift's ministry.

For a long time after the settlement of the town, the people were nearly all of one religious denomination, and constituted but one religious society. In the year 1777, when 220 polls were rated in town taxes, 207 of them were rated in the minister tax. Division in religious opinion and worship has since become more considerable, as in most other towns in New England. Richard Stratton, Esq., one of the first and most respectable settlers, was a Baptist, and was called Deacon. There was early a small Baptist congregation. In May, 1791, the town refused "to incorporate Mathew Dunning and 14 others into a Baptist society,"* according to their petition. The next year, "Isaac Holmes was chosen tything-man for the Baptist society in this town."*

The Baptists assisted to build, and have a joint right with Congregationalists to use, the south meeting-house. They have never had a settled minister; but sometimes hire one for the year. The church of that denomination here included some members from Hancock, but was always small, and was dissolved about 1811. Some of the members of it united themselves with a church in Berlin, N. Y. After two or three years, another Baptist church was formed, which now consists of 43 members.

The Methodists in the town have always been few, and now are only a very small number of families.

The poor of the town have usually been placed in the families of such inhabitants as would maintain them at a reasonable rate per week. Sometimes a gross sum has

* Town records.

been paid to the lowest bidder for the support of them all during the year. The situation of the town, contiguous to New York and Vermont, often made the number of state poor here particularly large. In the year 1826, more than 40 were supported, in whole or in part, at an expense to the public of 1200 dollars. Of this sum, near $1000 was paid by the Commonwealth for 35 state paupers. In the spring of 1827, the town rented a large farm, and collected the poor upon it, under the care of a superintendent. Notwithstanding the disadvantages and extra expenses of a new establishment, the expense for state paupers was reduced to about $600, and that for the town poor to $100. For the present year the expenses will be still less. Three only are supported at the charge of the town, and twelve by the state; of which last, six are under twelve years of age.

The town contains thirteen school districts, and raises $700 a year for the support of common schools.

A town library was begun between 1780 and 1790, which at the time of the Rev. Mr. Swift's death contained near 200 volumes; since that time it has been much neglected.

There are two burying grounds, both laid out early. That at the south end of the town was laid out about 1769, and is a quarter of a mile east of the meeting-house, at some distance from the road. The spot first appropriated to this use at the north part of the town, was three-eighths of a mile north of the meeting-house, on the west side of the road to Bennington, in the rear of the home lots, and separated from them by an intended highway. About 1760 the present ground was chosen, about the same distance west of the meeting-house. Many of the bodies laid in the first, were removed to this.

The deaths in the 27 years of Mr. Swift's ministry, from 1780 to 1806 inclusive, were 642, or about 24 in a year on an average. The greatest number in a year was 46 in 1796, 39 in 1802, and 38 in 1780; the least, 12 in 1801, 13 in 1800, and 15 in 1787 and 1806.

In the next 21 years, ending with 1827, the number of deaths was 376, or between 27 and 28 on an average yearly. The greatest mortality was in 1813, 61; in

1825, 52; and in 1823, 45: the least in 1810, 1812, and 1817, 15 each; in 1808 and 1818, 19 each; and in 1811, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1826, 1827, from 21 to 25.

Col. Benjamin Simonds, one of the first settlers and proprietors of the town, was born in the eastern part of the county of Hampshire, Feb. 23, 1726. At twenty years of age he was a soldier in the garrison of Fort Massachusetts, in the present town of Adams, when that fort was attacked in 1746 by a body of 900 French and Indians, under Vaudreuil.

After a short residence at Northampton, Col. S. came to this place. He was a man of great enterprize and activity, and long time one of the wealthiest inhabitants. He distinguished himself by his zeal and services in the cause of his country during the struggles of the Revolution. He was much employed in the affairs of the town, and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his townsmen to a great degree. He died April 11, 1807, aged 81.

David Noble, Esq., was also one of the principal inhabitants at an early period. He was born at New Milford, Con., Dec. 9, 1744, was graduated at Yale College in 1764, and came to this town from New Fairfield in 1770. He read law, and followed that profession a number of years. He afterwards engaged in mercantile pursuits, and acquired a very handsome estate. He was a man of activity and enterprize, of probity and intelligence, and a considerable benefactor and one of the first trustees of the College. In 1797 he was made a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Berkshire, and died March 4, 1803, in his 59th year.

Gen. William Towner, from New Fairfield, Con., after a number of years spent at Cheshire in this County, came and settled in this town as a medical practitioner about 1790, and was till his death the most eminent man in his profession in this neighbourhood. He was a man of graceful exterior and pleasing manners and fond of society; and he readily lent his attention to subjects foreign to his profession, especially to politics, the all-engrossing concern of the day. He was a member of the State Legislature in both branches, and general of brigade. He died after an illness of a few days at Pownal in Vermont, in Jan. 1813, at the age of 58.

Gen. Thompson Joseph Skinner was the son of the Rev. Thomas Skinner, of the parish of West Chester, in Colchester, Con. His father died early, and in agreement with the thrifty maxims of that day, he served his time as an apprenticed mechanic. He came to this town in 1775, and early acquired an extensive influence in the town and County. He at different times represented both in the General Court. He bore a very active part in the political contentions of the period of his public life, and was much distinguished for his spirited and happy efforts in extemporaneous and interrupted debate. He was many years Chief Justice of the Common Pleas for the County, and Treasurer of Williams College. He was Major General of Militia, a Representative in Fifth Congress, Marshal of the District of Massachusetts, and Treasurer of the State. He died at Boston, January 20, 1809, in his 57th year.

The Hon. Daniel Dewey was a native of Sheffield in this County, and two years a member of Yale College, in the class of 1780, where he received the honorary degree of master in 1792. He read law with Judge Sedgwick, of Stockbridge, commenced practice in this town in 1790, and became one of the most eminent and successful members of this profession in the western part of the Commonwealth. He was a member of the Governor's Council in 1809 and 1812, and represented this district in the thirteenth Congress. In Feb. 1814, he was appointed one of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, and died May 26, 1815, in his 50th year. He was eminently estimable and happy in all the social and domestic relations of life, and though he lived at a time of violent party animosities, detraction never meddled with his name. "He is almost the only man," said Cheif Justice Parker, "in an elevated rank, of fixed and unalterable political opinions, and who was never remiss in enforcing those opinions, that has been at no time calumniated." *Mass. Reports, vol.* 12, 580.

For an account of Col. Ephraim Williams, and of Williams College, see pages 164, 5, &c., of this work.

An academy was established here in 1827, and incorporated in 1828. In 1827, also, a printing office was opened, and the publication of a weekly newspaper commenced, called the American Advocate.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF HANCOCK.

BY RODMAN HAZARD, ESQ.

---

This town is bounded on the south by Richmond; on the east by Pittsfield, Lanesborough and New Ashford; on the north by Williamstown, and a tract of unincorporated land, called the Gore; and on the west by Berlin and Stephentown, in the county of Rensselaer, and New Lebanon, in the county of Columbia, New York. It was first called Jericho; but at the time of its incorporation in 1776, it was called Hancock, after the Hon. John Hancock, then President of the Continental Congress, and afterwards Governor of this State. It is nearly 16 miles in length from north to south, and about 2 in breadth. It was originally broader; but when the line was finally established between Massachusetts and New York, in 1787, a tier of excellent lots from half to three-fourths of a mile long, were thrown into the latter State, and the town was greatly injured. In June, 1798, another tract at the north-east was annexed to New Ashford, from 241 to 389 rods wide, and from 950 to 990 rods long.

From the line of Williamstown a narrow valley extends south about 7 miles, to the north village of Hancock; along which is a succession of good farms, spreading from the valley to the right and left on to the sides of the mountains. From this village south several miles, the town is so broken and mountainous that no highway has been cut through it; and the inhabitants, in passing from end of the town to the other, are obliged to travel 5 or 6 miles round the mountains in the

State of New York; which is a very great inconvenience in the transaction of town business. To the south and south-east of these mountains, at the head of the Richmond valley, is a tract of very fine land, belonging to the Shakers, with a soil of gravel and loam. From the slopes of the mountains to Richmond line on the east, is about a mile and a half, but less westward.

The soil of the town generally, with the exception of the mountainous parts, is good for rye, maize, oats, barley and potatoes. Wheat is a very uncertain crop, and not much sown. The valleys yield good hay, and the hills fine pasturage; and the town is better adapted to grazing than to the culture of grain.

The timber is hard maple, birch, white ash, butternut, bass, elm and chesnut. Formerly there was some white pine and hemlock; but trees of these kinds are now rarely found.

There is an abundance of solid blue limestone, which the people burn into lime for their own use. The Shakers get a kind of coarse marble from Hancock mountain, which they use for posts.

Though the town abounds with living springs and brooks, there are no very considerable streams, nor many important mill-sites. A branch of Green river rises about 3 miles south of the northern boundary, and runs north into Williamstown. Another stream rises near this, and flows to the south into Stephentown, thence to Kinderhook and to Hudson river; on which is a woollen factory and a saw-mill. Besides this factory and mill, there are in the town 2 grist-mills, 2 saw-mills, an oil-mill, and a clothier's works.

The first and principal grant in this town was made by the Legislature in 1760, to Asa Douglass, Esq. and Timothy Hurlburt, of Canaan, Con., Col. John Ashley of Sheffield, and Josiah Dean. The first grantee became a settler in April, 1762; with whom John Clothier, Jesse Squire, Amasa and Martin Johnson, Benjamin Davis, Samuel Grippen, David Sprague, Samuel Hand, Esq., Capt. Caleb Gardner, David Vaughan, Jonathan Hazard, Esq., Henry Hazard, and Reuben Ely, were soon associated. They were generally from Connecticut and Rhode Island, and settled about the north village and northward towards Williamstown.

In 1761, Charles Goodrich Esq. of Pittsfield obtained a grant of land at the south end of the town, and in 1764, his nephew, Daniel Goodrich, settled upon it; the year following Benjamin Goodrich, father of Daniel, settled there with all his other sons, viz: Benjamin, Samuel, Nathan, David, Ezekiel, Elizur, Hezekiah, Jeremiah and Enoch. Jeremiah and Hezekiah Osborn, father and son, and Israel Talcot settled there about the same time. The Goodrich's and Osborn's were immediately from Ridgefield—Talcot was from Wethersfield, Con.

Soon after the ganrt to Charles Goodrich, small grants were made in the north part of the town, to Dea. Samuel Brown of Stockbridge, and Col. Farrington. The residue of the town was sold by a committee of the General Court, to the actual settlers in 1789, at different prices per acre acccording to the quality.

The north village in this town has been already mentioned. It is near the centre of the town, about 3-4 of a mile from New York line, and has a post office, 2 stores, 2 taverns, 14 dwelling houses and several mechanic shops. Two regnlar lines of stages pass thrice a week through this village from Albany to Boston, one by way of Williamstown and Greenfield, and the other by Lanesborough and Deerfield.

There is another village in the southeast part of the town, extending into the edge of the town of Pittsfield, called the Shaker village. It is a compact and beautiful settlement, containing a church, office, school house, 7 dwelling houses, and various shops, occupied by joiners, hatters, blacksmiths, coopers, &c., on the south road from Pittsfield to New Lebanon, 5 miles from the former and 3 from the latter. A brook rising near the village is used for turning light machinery and various conveniences about the buildings.

The circular stone barn, built in this village in 1826, is a curiosity. It is 270 feet in compass, with walls laid in lime rising 21 feet above the underpining, and from 3 ½ to 2 ½ feet in thickness. The mast and rafters are 53 feet in length, and united together at the top On the lower floor, immediately within the walls, are stables 8 feet high, occupying 12 feet in length with the manger which is inwards, and into which convenient pla-

ces are left for throwing hay and feed from above. In these stables, which open to and from several yards, a span of horses and 52 horned cattle may be stabled. The covering of the stables forms the barn floor, on to which from an offset there is but one large door way for teams, which make the circuit of the floor and pass out at the same place. Eight or 10 can occupy the floor at the same time; and the hay is thrown into the large area in the centre. For simply laying the stone of this building the masons were paid 500 dollars and boarded.

With the exception of the Shakers, the great body of the inhabitants have ever been Baptists. A congregation was early formed in the north part of the town, which worshipped for a time in a log house, which stood near the site of the present meeting house, about a mile and a quarter above the north village. The present house was erected in 1797. About 1770, Elder Clark Rogers from Rhode Island, was sttled over this congregation, and ministered to the people until he died, Jan. 14, 1803, aged 77. He was Calvinistic in sentiment, and is said to have possessed good sense and exemplary piety, During his day the society was respectable, but has suffered since his death for the want of settled pastor; though they have had for definite periods the labors of several clergyman. The number of communicants in the church is about 30. From the north village most of the people attend worship in Stephentown and some of them belong to the Baptist church in that place.

A few persons in the south part of the town embraced the principles of the Shakers in June 1780. They began at that time (as some persons did from New Lebanon,) to visit mother Ann and the elders at Escuania, and were so taken with their notions, that they immediately set up meetings according to the customs of this sect. In 1784 they erected their meeting house. Some of the first Shakers were John Deming, (who lived within the line of Pittsfield,) and Daniel Goodrich, Nathan, David, Ezekiel, Hezekiah, and Jeremiah Goodrich, Israel Talcot, and two brothers by the name of Josiah and Joseph, who settled in Richmond, and Joshua Cogswell from Pittsfield, soon united with them.

The society of Shakers now embraces about 270 souls who live compactly in and near their village. Though they carry on considerable mechanical business, they are principally engaged in agriculture and horticulture. They own about 2000 acres of land, mostly on the flat around the village, though it reaches on to the hills north and east. The greater portion of it is in Pittsfield, considerable is in Hancock, and some in Richmond.

There are in the town 7 school districts. The middle district has a fund of $200, given by the late John Reynolds; the interest of which is to be applied forever for the benefit of the children of the poorer class of inhabitants, at the discretion of the school committee.

There is no public library in the town; but some of the inhabitants are concerned in a library in Stephentown, located a mile west of the north village.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF ADAMS.

BY REV. JOHN W. YEOMANS.

---

This township, under the name of East Hoosic, was explored, and its limits traced by a committee of the General Court of Massachusetts in 1749. The committee were instructed to make the town 6 miles square; but for some reason it was laid out 7 miles long from north to south, and 5 broad from east to west; comprising an area of about 22,400 acres. These are its present dimensions.

It is bounded north by Clarksburg; east by Clarksburg and Florida; south by Cheshire, and west by New Ashford and Williamstown.

In 1750, Capt. Ephraim Williams, afterwards Colonel, and founder of Williams College, obtained from the General Court a grant of 200 acres, on condition that he should reserve 10 acres for the use of a fort, and build a grist-mill and a saw-mill, and keep them in repair 20 years, for the use of the settlers. The reserved 10 acres form the central part of the farm lately owned and occupied by Israel Jones, Esq., in the north-western part of the town.

On the 2d day of June, 1762, the General Court sold by auction nine townships of land, lying in this north-west corner of the State. Of these townships, East Hoosic was No. 1. It was purchased by Nathan Jones for £3200. Mr. Jones, after the purchase, admitted Col. Elisha Jones and John Murray, Esq. as joint proprietors with him.

These proprietors, in October of the same year, employed a surveyor to lay out 48 settling lots of 100 acres each. A line was drawn through the length of the town, dividing the best of the land into two equal parts, and on each side of this line a range of lots was laid out. Each lot was 160 rods long from east to west, and 100 rods wide from north to south, abating from the breadth of each lot, enough to bring the range of 24 lots within the north and south limits of the township. These 48 settling lots, occupying the bottom of the valley through its whole length, comprised the heart of the township. Four years after, Israel Jones, Esq., who then resided in the township, was authorized to survey a further number of lots, not exceeding 20, of 100 acres each, and as agent of the proprietors, to admit settlers to the number of 60. This number was mentioned, because the conditions of settlement, fixed by a vote of the General Court, required the settlers, when their number amounted to 60, to build a meeting-house and settle "a learned protestant minister." The rest of the land was divided in 1763 into lots of 200 acres each, and distributed among the proprietors, according to their shares in the property of the township.

During the French wars, the Indians traversed this region; but they appear to have had no permanent habitations here. No remains of Indian settlements have existed within the remembrance of the earliest settlers.

About 1741 or 2, Fort Massachusetts was built in a narrow part of the valley leading towards Williamstown. This was a part of the line of defence erected to protect the northern and western settlements of New England against French and Indian hostilities. The enemy directed their principal movements towards Connecticut river. In general, they came down from Canada in the direction of the Connecticut, and were repelled by Fort Constitution, at Brattleborough, Vt., Fort Dummer, at Hinsdale, N. H., and Fort Wentworth, N. H., further up the Connecticut, all in connection with each other on the same line. But some came down the Hudson, and proceeding eastward up the Hoosic, came upon this fortification, and several bloody skirmishes took place. They repeatedly appeared in smaller or larger bodies about the fort. The following facts are taken principally from the

Appendix to the "Redeemed Captive," by the Rev. John Taylor, formerly of Deerfield.

On the 6th of May, 1746, as serj. John Hawks and John Miles were riding out from the fort, they were fired upon by two Indians and wounded. Miles made his escape to the fort; Hawks fought for some time, and might have taken them both prisoners, had he understood their language, as appeared afterwards: for they asked for quarters before he turned to make his escape.

A party of the enemy appeared again at the fort on the 11th of June following, and attacked a number of men who were at a distance from the fort, and a skirmish ensued. After sustaining the fire a few moments, the enemy fled, having lost one of their men. Elisha Nims and Gershom Hawks were wounded, and Benjamin Tenter was taken captive.

On the 20th of August, in the same year, an army of about 900 French and Indians, under Gen. De Vaudreuil, made an attack upon the fort. Col. Hawks, who commanded the fort at that time, had only 22 effective men with him, and but 33 persons, men, women, and children, and was miserably supplied with ammunition. Notwithstanding these unfortunate circumstances, he defended the fort 28 hours, and probably would never have given it up, had not his ammunition failed. He was finally necessitated to capitulate, and offered such articles as were accepted. One special article was, that none of the prisoners should be delivered into the hands of the Indians. The next day, however, Vaudreuil delivered one half of them to the Indians, on the plea that there was danger of mutiny in his army, the Indians being irritated, that they were cut off from the profits of the conquest. The savages immediately killed one of the prisoners, because, being sick, he was unable to travel. In the siege Col. Hawks lost but one man; while the enemy, as near as could be ascertained, lost 45, who were either killed outright, or died of their wounds. The prisoners were carried to Canada, where 12 of them sickened and died. The residue, with other prisoners, were sent on board a flag of truce to Boston, where they arrived on the 16th of August, 1747. The chaplain of the fort at the time it was taken, the Rev. John Norton, wrote an account of his captivity, which

was publisned. He afterwards settled in the ministry at East Hampton, a parish in Chatham, Con. Another of the captives was Benjamin Simonds, who afterwards became a distinguished inhabitant of Williamstown, and a colonel of militia.

While the fort was rebuilding, on the 25th of May, 1747, there being several hundred people present, an army of the enemy came with the design of hindering the undertaking. About 100 men had been sent to Albany a few days before for stores of provision and ammunition. As these were approaching the fort on their return, a scout was sent forward, who coming within sight of the fort, discovered the enemy and began an attack, which gave alarm to the people at the fort, who had not as yet discovered the enemy. A few issued out and maintained a small skirmish, until the enemy fled. The people remaining at the fort, and the commander of the party with the waggons, were much blamed for not affording assistance, and were charged with cowardice. In this action three persons were wounded, and a friendly Indian from Stockbridge was killed.

On the 1st of October following, Peter Burvee was taken captive near this fort.

On the 2d of August, 1748, about 200 of the enemy appeared at the fort. It was then under the command of Capt. Ephraim Williams, afterwards Col. Williams, whose grant of 200 acres has been already mentioned. A scout was fired upon, which drew out Capt. Williams with about 30 men; an attack began, which continued some time; but finding the enemy numerous, Capt. Williams fought upon the retreat, until he had again recovered the fort. The enemy soon withdrew; but with what loss was unknown. A man by the name of Abbot was killed, and Lieut. Hawley and Ezekiel Wells were wounded.

In 1755, in the second French war, Col. Williams was sent at the head of a regiment to join Gen. Johnson at the north, and was killed on the 8th of September in that year, near the southern extremity of Lake George.

After the death of Col. Williams, the oversight of the fort was committed, it is believed, to one Capt. Wyman. He is known to have lived in the house within the pick-

ets, and to have occupied the land reserved for the use of the fort.

June 7, 1756, a body of the enemy came again to this fort, and Benjamin King, and a man by the name of Meacham were killed.

The Rev. Stephen West, afterwards Dr. West, minister of Stockbridge, was chaplain in 1758, and perhaps in 1757.

The location of the fort is still indicated by the print of a cellar, and the horse radish, which was planted by the soldiers, and still grows upon the spot.

Some of the first settlers in this township, except a few soldiers who lingered round the fort, were, Abiel Smith, Gideon and Jacob his sons, John Kilborn his son-in-law, and John McNeal. These all came from Litchfield, Con. Reuben Hinman and Jonathan Smith, came from Woodbury. There were also the names of Parker, Cook, and Leavenworth, from Wallingford. Rev. Samuel Todd, who had previously removed from Northbury, Con. to Lanesborough, and Israel Jones, Esq. settled here.

Abiel Smith and his sons lived in two houses; one occupying the present site of Mr. Alpheus Smith's tavern in the north village; the other, a spot a few rods further east. Mr. Kilborn settled near the present site of the Friends' meeting-house; Mr. McNeal near the present residence of Mr. Kingsley, about a mile and a half south of the north village; and Mr. Hinman lived on the spot now occupied by Col. Henry Willmarth, two miles north of the south village.

Most of the first settlers soon disposed of their lands to purchasers from Rhode Island, many of whom belonged to the society of Friends, and the population gradually changed, till nearly all had sold out and removed from the town. The settlement of Friends became extensive and prosperous. Several other families also from Rhode Island, came in about the same time; and these two classes of inhabitants and their descendants have since occupied the greatest part of the town.

A part of the emigrants who came from Rhode Island into this section of Massachusetts, pitched on Stafford's Hill in Cheshire, then called New Providence. It appears to have been the wish of these New Providence

settlers to be incorporated with Adams; and during the year in which Adams obtained its act of incorporation, the inhabitants were twice called to vote on the question of extending the charter so as to embrace New Providence. The proposition was rejected.

The town was incorporated Oct. 15, 1778, and called Adams, in honor of Samuel Adams, afterwards Governor of the State.

On the 8th of March 1779 the first town meeting was held under the act of incorporation. Capt. Philip Mason, Capt. Israel Jones, and Capt. Reuben Hinman were then chosen select-men.

The inhabitants seem to have maintained a prompt co-operation with government in the war of the revolution. Numerous votes stand on record, authorizing assessments to defray the expenses of the part they were taking in the contest. They raised large sums at a time. At one meeting they "voted, to give nine months men 10 dollars a month in grain, wheat at 6*s*. a bushel, rye at 4*s*, corn at 3*s*. and one hundred continental dollars before they marched."

Adams occupies the summits of Hoosic and Saddle mountains, and the interjacent valley. The town is divided into two parts nearly equal, by the south branch of the Hoosic river, which traverses the bottom of the valley. Of these two parts, the eastern is formed by the western slope of Hoosic mountain, which, in the first two thirds of its descent, is steep and regular, constituting a lofty wall on the eastern border of the town; but in the remaining one third sinks by broken and irregular depressions. The north eastern quarter of the town is uneven and stoney. In the south eastern quarter, the land towards the bottom of the mountain exhibits a more regular surface; the ridges are flattened and blended together, forming a sufficient space of smooth table land for several valuable farms.

The western half of the town is composed of the two eastern ridges of Saddle mountain, the valley between them, and the valley which opens a passage for the Hoosic towards Williamstown. The latter valley is a continuation of the principal valley that constitutes the heart of the town. At the bend, it is narrowed up, by the east ridge which protrudes itself northward almost

to the base of the opposite mountain, crowding the two branches of the Hoosic, suddenly into one channel. Towards the west, the hills retire southward, and leave a beautiful tract of meadow, which with the sloping pastures on each side, affords some of the pleasantest farms in the town.

On the south of these farms the main body of Saddle mountain rises in a majestic and comely form, parting near the summit, and forming an elevated valley of good pasture ground. Along this valley the line passes between Adams and Williamstown. The eastern ridge of the mountain projects a mile further north. The two ridges embraced within the line of Adams converge towards the south, and meet about a mile and a half from the commencement of the shortest ridge. The tapering valley between them, called "the Notch," comprises several valuable dairy farms. By the union of the two eastern ridges and the abrupt termination of the western ridge in Williamstown, the triple summit of Saddle mountain here becomes single, and immediately rises into the peak called Saddle Ball.

This peak takes the appellation of "Greylock," from its hoary aspect in the winter. Its eastern declivity, from its summit to its base, is rugged and steep. Northward towards the junction of the two eastern ridges, the declivity of the mountain is gentler, presenting a surface that may be comfortably tilled.

The mean width of the principal valley in the town, may be half a mile. In some places it is nearly interrupted by spurs from the adjacent mountains, shooting out to the bed of the stream. The direction of the valley is north-east, till it passes an abrupt projection from the eastern ridge of Saddle mountain, about three-fourths of a mile from the north village, it then turns due north, and at the north village, passes round the end of that ridge, and leads the Hoosic into Williamstown.

The soil on the mountains is calcareous. Saddle mountain is a vast ledge of limestone. In different parts of the town there are a few hills of silicious sand. There are also numerous and vast beds of clay. Towards Williamstown, the soil is a mixture of clay and silex, combined in various proportions. In that quarter, except on elevated ground, the clay predominates

The streams of water in Adams are few. The two branches of the Hoosic, with their small tributaries, all passing out of Adams by one channel, comprise the whole. The south branch, coming in from Cheshire, receives from the east, about half a mile south of the south village, Dry brook, which in freshets is generally larger than the main branch, but a part of the year is entirely dry. A quarter of a mile below, it receives from the west mountain Hoxie's brook, which supplies in its short course a fulling-mill and a saw-mill. Half a mile north of the south village, it receives Tophet brook from the east. This brook is named from a rocky ravine about 100 rods in length, and in some places more than 60 feet deep, through which it falls from the hill into the valley. It supplies a factory. The south branch on its way northward receives only a few rivulets, which flow a part of the year from the adjacent mountains, until about 60 rods west of the north village it meets the north branch. Hudson's brook falls into the north branch three-fourths of a mile above. About a mile west of the north village, a small but rapid stream comes down from "the Notch," and a mile from this, another from the north mountain falls into the Hoosic; which thus becomes the common outlet of all the waters of the town.

The principal roads in Adams, are the two valley roads running one on each side of the river, through the the length of the town, and the Greenfield road passing through the north village east and west. These roads were laid out under the direction of the original proprietors. There are two mountain roads, running nearly parallel with these; one on each side of the town. The west mountain road leaves the Greenfield road about a mile west of the north village, enters "the Notch" at its northern opening, passes out from between the two ridges at their point of junction, and descends the mountain south-easterly into the Cheshire road, near the south village. The east mountain road parts from the Greenfield road 1 ½ miles east of the north village, and follows a shallow valley, made by an undulation on the side of Hoosic mountain, to near the south line of the town, where it connects with the Savoy road. Besides these five, the roads are inconsiderable.

Adams exhibits two natural curiosities of considerable interest.

About a mile north-east of the north village, near the line of Clarksburg, Hudson's brook has worn a channel 30 rods long, and in some places 60 feet deep, through a quarry of white marble. The mass of rock terminates towards the south in a steep precipice. Down this precipice, it appears the water once fell; but finding in some places natural chasms, and in others wearing away the rocks themselves, it has found a passage, from 30 to 60 feet below its former bed. The mean breadth of the channel is about 15 feet. Two masses of rock, one of which lies 10 or 12 feet above the other, under which the water successively found its way, lie like bridges across the channel. The upper bridge is now much broken. Under the lower one, which is beautifully arched, the stream has sunk its bed nearly 50 feet. Many cavities of different figures and dimensions, worn by the action of the water, are left in the solid rock from 50 to 60 feet above the present bed of the stream. These cavities, together with the position and appearance of the walls of the chasm, prove that this remarkable excavation in the bed of marble is the work of the water. The stream is sufficient to supply a saw-mill but a part of the year.

A little west of the top of the chasm is a cave, inclosed by masses of rock piled loosely together. It consists of an irregular room of difficult entrance, in some parts of which a man may stand erect. This room may be entered, both from the north and south-east. These two avenues, the one being a convenient inlet and the other an outlet for the water; the position of the cave in relation to the bed of the stream, being lower than the former channel of the brook; the position of the rocks below the cave, and the inclination of the ground above it; the signs of friction in the rocks at the outlet where they presented solid obstructions to the water, and the smooth course gravel on the bottom of the room within, make it probable that the cave was once full of earth, which was removed by the water, as it explored the interior of the hill, to select for itself a passage to the valley below.

The rocks about the cave and the fall, even in some places which appear inaccessible, are covered with the names and initials of the numerous visitants.

The other curiosity worthy of notice is a cave in the side of a hill, about a mile south of the north village, near the road to Cheshire. A narrow and difficult passage, about 10 feet in length, leads to a room large enough to contain 6 or 8 persons. Northward, a small horizontal avenue, 10 or 12 feet long, leads to another room considerably larger than the first. From this, by descending 20 perpendicular feet, another room is entered 30 feet long, by an average breadth of about 20 feet, and 20 feet high. Beyond this and lower down, are smaller apartments, answering to bedrooms, pantries &c. Further on no one has explored. The walls of the cavern are composed of limestone, belonging to the vast ledge of which Saddle mountain is built.

The population of Adams in 1820 was 1,836. It is now estimated at about 2,500. The principal cause of its rapid increase is the extension of the manufacturing interest.

The two villages began to grow about the same time. The gristmill and sawmill required to be built by the conditions of Col. Williams' grant in 1750, stood in the north village, a few rods south of the present site of Phœnix factory. Another gristmill was early erected where the south village now is. These mills accommodated the inhabitants to a considerable distance around, and attracted the business of the town to these two spots.

The north village now contains 3 houses of religious worship, one for Baptists, one for Methodists and one for Congregationalists. It has 7 factory buildings, 7 stores, 2 taverns, a printing office, a post office, an iron furnace, 3 blacksmith's shops, one tin shop, 2 cabinet makers', 6 shoemakers', one silversmith and jeweller's, 3 milleners', 2 tailors', one hatters', two saddle and harness makers', 3 carpenters', 2 sleigh and waggon makers', shops. There are other mechanics in the village who keep no regular shops; such as carpenters and joiners, brick layers, &c. and there are other shops connected with the different factories, for working wood and iron, which are not embraced in this list. The village contains 87

dwelling houses, occupied by 105 families, which including all employed in the factories, mechanic shops, &c. number not far from 1000 souls.

The south village contains one house of religious worship, an academy, one factory, 4 stores, 2 taverns, a post office, 2 blacksmiths' shops, 5 shoemaker's, 2 cabinet shops, 2 saddle and harness makers', 2 carpenters' and joiners', 2 stone cutters' shops, and 35 dwelling-houses, occupied by 42 families.

There are in the town 7 practising physicians and 3 attorneys. Of these, 4 physicians and 2 attorneys are located in the north village, the rest in the south.

Adams contains 15 factories. Seven of them are located in the north village, 6 near the south village, and 2 near the line of Williamstown. The following schedule gives a condensed description of their extent, operations, &c. :

*Old Brick Factory ;* Thomas Higginbottom, Daniel P. Miriam, James Howard, proprietors ; located on the south branch of Hoosic river, at the west end of the north village ; built in 1811 ; 60 feet by 34, 4 stories, brick ; material, cotton ; fabric, coarse sheeting and shirting ; spindles, 1092 ; looms, 28 ; persons employed, 40 ; yards annually made, 170,000. This factory was first built by J. Q. Robinson and 19 others, who put in $1000 each, and were incorporated under the name of "Adams North Village Cotton Manufacturing Company." The present proprietors became a corporate body in 1829. Connected with this factory are 2 shops for making machinery ; one for wood and one for iron. The picker is also in a building by itself.

*Eagle Factory ;* Caleb B. Turner, proprietor ; on north branch of the Hoosic, in the north part of the north village ; built in 1813 ; 45 feet by 32, 4 stories, wood ; material, cotton ; fabric, coarse sheeting ; spindles, 712½ ; looms, 20 ; persons employed, 20 ; yards annually made, 130,000.

——— *Factory ;* Caleb B. Turner, proprietor ; 10 rods east of the preceding ; built in 1826 ; 40 feet by 30, 3 stories, wood ; material, cotton ; fabric, coarse sheeting ; spindles, 504 ; looms, 20 ; persons employed, 20 ; yards annually made, 130,000.

*Factory;* Caleb B. Turner, proprietor; 40 or 50 rods east of the preceding; built in 1828; wood. These three establishments are supplied with water from the north branch, by one canal, which carries the water along on the north bank about 70 or 80 rods. The fabric produced here is of the coarser texture. The last of these buildings is not yet completed. It is at present occupied for building machinery to be used on the premises.

*Estes' Factory;* David Estes & Son, proprietors; on the north side of N. branch of the Hoosic, 40 rods below Clarksburg road; built in 1825; 46 feet by 31, 4 stories, brick; material, wool; fabric, satinet; spindles, 180; looms, 7; persons employed, 25; yards annually made, 20,000. Connected with this is a building of wood, 40 feet by 22, containing 5 carding machines, 1 roping and 2 picking machines, 2 satinet looms, dye-house, &c. There are also 150 spindles for satinet warp. Wool carding and cloth dressing is also done for customers.

*Phœnix Factory;* Giles Tinker, proprietor; on south branch of the Hoosic, at the west end of the north village; built in 1825 and 1828, 110 feet by 34, 4 stories, brick; material, cotton; fabric, coarse sheeting; spindles, 456; looms, 16; persons employed, 25; yards annually made, 125,000. In this building, there is a grist-mill with 2 run of stones. A large part of the building is occupied for making machinery, of which about $10,000 worth are made annually. Connected with the establishment is a furnace for casting machinery, and a triphammer shop in two separate buildings, each 30 by 40.

*Union Factory;* Ingals, Wells & Burke, proprietors; on north branch of the Hoosic, at the eastern extremity of the north village; built in 1827 and 1828; 95 feet by 30, 3 stories, wood; material, cotton; fabric, coarse sheeting; spindles, 408; looms, 14; persons employed, 23; yards annually made, 100,000. Wool is also manufactured here into satinet; spindles, 220; looms, 6; persons employed, 12; yards annually made, 30,000. Considerable carding and cloth dressing is also done for customers.

*Boys' Factory;* Wells, Blackington & Co., proprietors; on Hoosic river, 2½ miles west of the north village, near the line of Williamstown; built in 1814; 60 feet by 25, 3 stories, wood; material, wool; fabric, satinet; spindles, 465; looms, 9; persons employed, 20; yards annually made, 52,000.

*Boys' Factory;* Wells, Blackington & Co., proprietors; 2 rods from the preceding; built in 1821; 50 feet by 25, 3 stories, wood; material, cotton; fabric, satinet warps; spindles, 300; persons employed, 20. One of the buildings is occupied for carding, spinning and weaving the wool, and the other for making the cotton warps for satinet. Carding and cloth dressing is also done for customers.

*Old Brick Factory;* R. Brown and others, proprietors; on south branch of the Hoosic, half a mile south of the south village; built in 1814; 75 feet by 32, 3 stories, brick; material, cotton; fabric, coarse sheeting and shirting; spindles, 708; looms, 26; persons employed, 35; yards annually made, 156,000. The company who built this factory, were incorporated in the year 1814, by the name of "Adams South Village Cotton and Woollen Manufacturing Company."

——— *Factory;* J. & A. Anthony, proprietors; on south branch of the Hoosic, ¼th of a mile above the preceding; built in 1827; 50 feet by 34, 3 stories, wood; material, cotton; fabric, coarse sheeting and shirting; spindles, 720; looms, 24; persons employed, 33; yards annually made, 144,000.

——— *Factory;* D. Anthony, proprietor; on south branch of the Hoosic, at the north extremity of the south village; built in 1826; 56 feet by 36, 4 stories, brick; material, cotton; fabric, coarse sheeting and shirting; spindles, 504; looms, 18; persons employed, 25; yards annually made, 130,000. This building is calculated for double the quantity of machinery it now contains. It is gradually filling up, and the intention of the proprietor is to produce 260,000 yards annually.

——— *Factory;* Isaac U. Hoxie, proprietor; ¼ths of a mile east of the south village, on Tophet brook; built in 1822; 40 feet by 30, 3½ stories, wood; material, cotton; fabric, yarn; spindles, 144; persons employed, 7. The building is chiefly occupied for making

machinery, of which about $15,000 worth is made annually. The water is thrown upon the wheel from a level with the third story of the building.

——— *Factory;* George Turner, proprietor; half a mile north of the south village, on the south branch of the Hoosic; built in 1814; 30 feet by 30, wood; material, cotton; fabric, stripe; spindles, 336; persons employed, 13; yards annually made, 60,000. The weaving is all done in families abroad.

——— *Factory;* Jesse Jenks, proprietor; ⅛ths of a mile south of the south village, on south branch of the Hoosic; built in 1828; 50 feet by 34, 1 story stone, 2 stories wood; material, cotton; fabric, coarse sheeting and shirting; spindles, 383; looms, 12; persons employed, 15; yards annually made, 80,000. This factory is yet unfinished. It is calculated for nearly three times the quantity of machinery it now contains.

In the town of Adams, it appears from the foregoing schedule, there are about 330 persons employed in the cotton and woollen manufacture, producing about 1,300,000 yards annually.

There is much valuable water power unoccupied, especially in the north part of the town. Some on the north branch of the Hoosic in and above the north village, and more on the Hoosic below the junction of the branches, towards Williamstown.

There are 3 grist-mills in the town, 2 in the north village, and one in the south; 10 saw-mills, one oil-mill, 3 tanneries, and some other small machinery moved by water, and adapted to various uses.

There is a small furnace in the east part of the north village, which produces annually about $5000 worth of castings, chiefly machinery.

The first settlers, most of whom came from Connecticut, maintained the religious sentiments and habits nourished by the excellent institutions of their native State. They early assumed the form of a Congregational church and society, and fulfilled the condition on which the settling lots were conveyed to them, by building a meeting-house and settling a minister. Their first meeting-house was built of logs, on a spot now occupied by an orchard, at the corner of the roads near the centre of the town. The Rev. Samuel Todd, who

came into the town in the early period of its settlement, was installed pastor of the church. The records of this church are lost, and the particulars of its history cannot now be known.

Not long after the settlement of Mr. Todd, the change of population withdrew his support, and obliged him to relinquish his ministerial labours. A vote of the inhabitants, taken Jan. 3, 1778, before the incorporation of the town, appears on the clerk's book, proposing to the Rev. Mr. Todd to relinquish his claim to the ministerial lands, to which his being the first settled minister entitled him, and take his dismission. He was dismissed, but retained the land.

Mr. Todd was born in North Haven, Con., in 1719, and educated at Yale College, where he received his first degree in 1734, at the early age of 15. At the age of 20, he was settled in the ministry in Northbury in Woodbury, Litchfield county, Con. The date of his dismission from that charge is not known. He removed to Lanesborough, and from thence, in the fall of 1766, to Adams. After his dismission from the church in Adams, he was commissioned a justice of the peace. He removed to Northfield, Franklin county, Mass. thence to Orford, Grafton county, N. H., where (say the records of that church) he and his wife were received into the church, June 4, 1782. He preached occasionally to that congregation, and the elderly inhabitants of the town who knew him, highly commend his character and talents.

Mr. Todd possessed a mind of more than ordinary strength, and great decision of character. His religious sentiments and feelings were strictly evangelical. The revivals of 1740 he warmly approved, and exerted himself to promote them.

The Friends' society in Adams was formed in the year 1781. David Anthony, Isaac Killy, Isaac Upton, Joshua Lapham, Geo. Lapham, and Adam Hartness, with their families, constituted the society at its first organization. They worshipped in a log dwelling-house, till about the year 1786, when they erected the house in which they now meet. It stands about half a mile northwest of the south village. The building lot, together with adjacent accommodations for a burying ground,

the whole comprising about 4½ acres, was given to the society by Daniel Lapham.

In 1819 the society enjoyed its greatest strength. It then embraced about 40 families. They now number between 25 and 30 families, some members of which belong to the society. Their decline is attributable partly to removals from town, and partly to the reluctance of the rising generation to take the places of their fathers.

Their first recommended speaker was Robert Nesbit, who came into the society soon after its formation. He was succeeded by Mary Battey. The next was David Aldridge, who still officiates.

For a time, the society had 2 school-houses, with a dwelling-house and garden belonging to each, for the use of the teachers. In 1824, when the decrease of the society made one school sufficient, one of the school establishments was sold, and the avails were applied as a school fund. Their nominal school fund amounts to about $500; a part of which, however, when needed, helps to support the poor.

The society in 1828 became about equally divided respecting the sentiments of Elias Hicks. The Hicksites appeared to be prompted rather by disapprobation of the proceedings of the opposite party against Hicks, than by approbation of the sentiments which he avowed. They pronounce those proceedings inconsistent with their rules of discipline.

After the dismission of Mr. Todd and the dispersion of the Congregational church, there was an interval of 20 or 30 years, during which no church existed in the town, except the society of Friends. About the year 1782, the inhabitants in the north part of the town, comprising the remnants of the declining Congregational church and others of similar sentiments, set up and covered the frame of a meeting-house, a few rods south of the north village. It stood without windows or floor till 1794, when the people of the neighbourhood moved it into the village and finished it, selling the pews to defray the expense. A Baptist preacher by the name of Dyer Stark, who had removed into Stamford, Vt., was employed to preach a part of the time for several years,

during which time no church was recognized in the place.

In 1808, a Baptist church, consisting of 35 members, was organized, under the ministry of Elder George Witherel. It has enjoyed several revivals, which brought considerable accessions to its numbers. The whole number of persons who have belonged to the church since its organization, is 178. Of these, 31 have been excommunicated, 18 have died, and 30 have been dismissed and recommended to other churches. Ninety-nine are now represented on the records as members of the church.

The following ministers have been employed at intervals, in succession, after Mr. Witherel, viz. Elders Elijah F. Willey, Hosea Wheeler, —— Robinson, Samuel Savory, and Charles B. Keyes.

The meeting-house had by common consent become the property of a society in which no church existed, and which professed no decided partiality for any religious creed. The labours of a Baptist preacher, whom they happened to employ, first gave currency to the tenets of that denomination, and as the society inclined towards the order of the Baptists, they carried the house with them, and have since held it chiefly as the property of that denomination.

About the year 1784, a considerable body of Methodists made their appearance in the south part of the town. They decreased for many years, till very few of that connexion remained in the town. A small class was in the mean time formed in the Notch. In 1823, they converted a building which had been occupied for a dwelling and for some other uses, in the north village, into a meeting-house, which they finished within, in the autumn of 1828. For the last few years, the growth of the Methodist connexion in the north village has been considerable. They are supplied half the time with circuit preaching.

A second Baptist church was organized in the south village in 1826, under the ministry of Elder Elnathan Sweet, of Cheshire, who has since supplied them half the time. The church was organized with 14 members. Since that time, 38 have been added to it, 2 have been dismissed from it, 2 have died, and one has been excom-

municated ; leaving at the last meeting of the Baptist Association, 47 members. The meeting-house in which they worship, stands in the south village. It is a convenient brick edifice, without a steeple, decently finished within, and was built by the inhabitants of the village and the vicinity, with little regard to religious denominations.

The present Congregational church was organized in the north village, April 19, 1827, consisting of 22 members, 7 males and 15 females. During the remainder of that year and the following, 9 members were added to it, and 3 dismissed and recommended to other churches. The church comprised, Jan. 1, 1829, 28 members.

In 1828, the church, by the assistance of friends of religion abroad, erected a convenient and decent house of worship in the north village. It is built of brick, 65 feet by 40, with full gallery, and including the lot and the expense of a bell and stoves, cost $4000. The house was dedicated on the 12th of November, 1828 ; and the same day, the Rev. John W. Yeomans was ordained and installed pastor of the church. They have received assistance in supporting the preaching of the gospel, from the Berkshire and the Massachusetts Missionary Societies. The seats of the meeting-house are subjected to annuities, to raise the salary and defray the expenses of the church.

From the organization of the church to Jan. 1, 1829, baptism was administered to 14 persons ; 6 adults and 8 children.

Adams is divided into 13 school districts. In the most populous districts, which draw the largest amount of the interest of the school fund, schools are supported from 8 to 10 months in the year; the least populous districts frequently have schools only about as many weeks. The school fund amounts to $4,547. It is vested in lands, which yield an annual rent of about 270 dollars, which is distributed among the districts according to their number of persons under 21 years of age. No money has ever been raised for schools by taxation, except in one instance: Dec. 31st, 1782, the town voted to raise *three pounds* for the support of a grammar school the year ensuing.

The original proprietors of the townsnip appropriated one 63d part of the town to each of these three purposes: for the first settled minister, for the support of the ministry, and for the support of schools. The portion of the first settled minister, the Rev. Mr. Todd received. The remainder of these public lands were neglected for many years, on account of the disorder of the public concerns of the town, and were mostly occupied by individual claims. When the public claim was afterwards revived, no distinction was recognized respecting the lands recovered for public uses, and the whole was merged in the school fund, where it has since remained. No legislative authority, however, was ever obtained for this transfer of the ministerial lands.

A part of the legacy of Col. Williams, which gave rise to Williams College, was originally bequeathed to this town. The project for erecting a College in Williamstown, led to efforts to appropriate the whole donation to that object; and a vote of the inhabitants of Adams was procured, uniting their share of the legacy with that of Williamstown. The transfer was afterwards sanctioned by a vote of the General Court of the State.

A small but comely building was erected in the south village in 1825, to accommodate a subscription school. The establishment embraces two departments, a male and a female; so connected as to contribute chiefly to the support of a male principal. Both departments have embraced an average number of from 30 to 40 scholars. The institution has no funds, except the building, which was erected by subscriptions of the inhabitants in the vicinity. Its patronage has been chiefly confined to the town, and even to the south part.

Two select schools commenced in the north village in December, 1828, one for males, the other for females. They began auspiciously, and were afterwards united, with the design of forming a permanent academical establishment.

A public library was instituted in the south village, about the year 1805, by a society called the Adams Library Association. It embraced about 130 volumes, procured at an expense of about $150. The library is still in existence, though under no regulation. Most

of the books are held by those who drew them for use, and neglected to return them.

A charter for a bank to be located in this town, with a capital of $100,000, was granted in 1828. The bank has not yet commenced operations.

The cemeteries in this town are numerous, on account of the broken state of society; but except that of the Friends' society, and one set apart for the use of the Congregational church at the first settlement of the town, they are not the property of the public. The inhabitants of the north village bury in a spot owned by Col. Jeremiah Colegrove, in the eastern part of the village. The burying ground occupied chiefly by the south village inhabitants, except the Friends, is ¼th of a mile south-east of the village. It was devoted to that use by Joseph Smith, but never was legally conveyed to the public.

Israel Jones, Esq., who has been mentioned as employed by the proprietors in surveying "settling lots" in this town, and in superintending their sale, died suddenly on the 11th of September, the present year, aged 91. The following account is extracted from a notice of him, published in the Berkshire American, the week after his death:

"Esq. Jones was born Sept. 21, 1788, O. S., in Weston, Middlesex county, in this State, where his great-grandfather, who came from England, settled in 1665. He was the fourth of fifteen children, all of whom, except one, were sons, and all the offspring of the same father and mother. His father, Elisha Jones, who was one of the three original proprietors of this township, held many public and responsible offices, and was eminent for piety. Israel settled first in a central part of the town of Pittsfield; he removed to this town in 1766, and married the year after, Alithea, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Todd, with whom he lived 59 years. He had nine children, two only of whom survive him. In 1803 he became a member of the church in Williamstown, where he regularly attended worship, till he removed his relations to the Congregational church in this village, at its formation in 1827.

He frequently held a seat in the General Court of the Commonwealth. In 1798 he was employed by the

government in adjusting the line between the United States and the south-eastern part of the British dominions in North America. He was a trustee, first of the Free School, and then of the College, in Williamstown.

The character of Esq. Jones, was formed by a vigorous intellect, ardent feelings, and religion. His mind was furnished with extensive intelligence from observation and reading, and his memory gave him a command of his knowledge which seldom accompanies that extreme age. His bodily health and activity, preserved by temperance and wholesome exercise, were like the health and activity of youth.

He was decidedly generous and kind, though possessed of a quick and ardent temperament. To those who were acquainted with his religious experience, he manifested the uniform spirit of a christian. He cherished a constant sense of sin, and looked for salvation to the atonement of Christ. For a long time previous to his death, his hope of heaven sustained him above the fear of death, and rendered his expected dissolution an agreeable subject of contemplation. He often said that he dreaded nothing from death but the pain of dying, and he was spared even that."

During the forenoon of the day on which he died, he rode 10 or 12 miles on horseback, dined with his family, and having arranged his plan of business for the afternoon, retired, as his custom was, to rest for an hour or two, requesting one of his family to wake him at a certain time. About 2 o'clock, when he had intended to rise, he was found lifeless, having evidently expired in his sleep without a struggle.

A complete list of the physicians in this town has not been obtained.

*Lawyers.*

Daniel Noble, now practising in Williamstown; Thomas Robinson, Nathan Putnam, Daniel D. Robinson, [deceased], and Charles P. Huntington, removed to Northampton.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF PERU.

BY REV. JOSEPH M. BREWSTER.

---

This township included the greater part of Hinsdale until 1804. The whole was purchased at auction at Boston, June 2, 1762, for £1460. Nine townships were purchased at that time; among which this was denominated No. 2. It went into the hands of Oliver Partridge and Elisha Jones; and in honour of the former gentleman was called Partridgefield, from its incorporation in 1771, until 1806, when it received its present name. It is about 6 miles long and 4½ broad, embracing about 17,280 acres. Within these limits the settlement commenced about 1764. Between this time and 1768, Henry Badger from New Jersey, Nathaniel Stowell from Connecticut, Peter, Daniel and Nathan Thompson, brothers, from the eastern part of this State, in it, and Ebenezer Pierce not long after.

The town is bounded by Windsor on the north; by Cummington and Worthington in the county of Hampshire on the east; by Middlefield in the same county on the south, cornering on Washington on the south-west, and by Hinsdale on the west. Occupying the height of land on the Green mountain range, the climate is severe. The surface is uneven, and the soil in many places hard and stony. It is best adapted to grazing, though considerable quantities of rye, corn and oats are raised in favorable seasons. There is a limestone quarry, from which lime is made of the best quality. There are no large rivers or streams. The inhabitants are very generally farmers,—industrious, temperate and

moral. We have but one store, one tavern, (supported by travellers,) one grist-mill, and 3 saw-mills. There are 111 families, and about as many dwelling-houses.

The first team is said to have crossed the mountain in this town in 1767. A turnpike road now passes over it, leading from Albany and Pittsfield to Northampton and Boston.

Public worship has been maintained from near or quite the commencement of the settlement, and the inhabitants have been distinguished for their zeal in supporting the institutions of the gospel. They are principally Congregationalists, though there are some Baptists and Methodists, belonging to societies and churches in the adjoining towns.

The church was organized with about 35 members, in 1770, and the Rev. Stephen Tracy, from Norwich, Con., was ordained their pastor in April, 1772. He was dismissed in May, 1776, and afterwards settled in Norwich. There are no records of his ministry remaining.

The Rev. John Leland, a native of Holliston, the second pastor, was ordained in April, 1783, and remained sole pastor until Oct. 8, 1815, when the Rev. Roswell Hawks was associated with him as colleague. During this time, there were two revivals, one in 1804, and the other in 1808. By the former, 19, and by the latter, 53 persons were brought into the church. Before the settlement of his colleague, Mr. Leland admitted about 200 to the communion. He died at the house of his son, Mr. John Leland, in Amherst, in May, 1826.

Mr. Hawks was dismissed in April, 1823, and is now pastor of the church in Cummington. Fifty-five persons were admitted to the church by him, 31 of whom were the fruits of a revival in 1819.

The present pastor of the church, the Rev. Joseph M. Brewster, was ordained Dec. 29, 1824. A few drops of mercy were shed down to refresh the people of God in the spring of 1827. Twenty-six persons have been received to the church under his ministry; and the church consisted on the 1st of January last, of 111 members.

The following persons have sustained the office of deacons, viz. Stephen Fisk, Daniel Kinney, Ebenezer

Pierce, Joseph Nash, Zechariah Watkins, Rufus Butts, Allen Pain, Cyrus Stowell, Esq., and Smith Phillips. All these, excepting the two last, are in their graves.

The first meeting-house was erected in 1780, and the present one in July 18, 1807. It is a remarkable fact, that the rain from the east roof of this house flows into Connecticut river, and from the west into the Housatonic.

Considerable has been done and is doing in the cause of benevolence. About $300 was raised for charitable objects in 1828.

We have 7 district schools, and a town library of about 100 volumes.

The tax for supporting paupers in 1828, was about $100.

*Physicians.*

John Smith, —— Whitman, Daniel Pierce, Thomas Sears, and Jonas Brown.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF HINSDALE.

BY REV. WILLIAM A. HAWLEY.

---

HINSDALE is situated on the west side of the Green mountain range, and is bounded north by Windsor, east by Peru, south by Washington, and west by Dalton. Its length from north to south is 7 miles, and its breadth from 3 to 4. The town is watered by a branch of the Housatonic, which rises in the south-west corner, partly in Washington, and runs in a north-westerly direction, forming in its way several valuable water privileges. On the banks of this stream and its tributaries, is much valuable meadow, which affords an abundance of grass, and much of it of an excellent quality. The soil is generally good, adapted chiefly to grass. In the town there are now 1 corn mill, 6 saw-mills, attached to two of which there are machines for sawing shingles, 1 woollen factory, 2 clothiers' mills, and 2 tanneries. There are comparatively few mechanics in town. The great portion of the population are farmers, occupying their own farms, employed mostly in the care of sheep, the wool of which is generally of an excellent quality, and affords a very handsome profit. Previous to the introduction of the Spanish sheep, the principal business was the dairy and the raising of cattle.

The settlement was commenced about the close of the second French war, probably in the year 1762 or 63, it is understood, by Francis, David, and Thomas Miller, brothers, from Middlebury. Francis Miller was a man of considerable note, was employed by the go-

vernment as surveyor, and surveyed the road from Boston to Albany, and the boundary line between Massachusetts and New York. He resided in the town till the commencement of the American revolution, when he was induced, professedly by conscientious scruples concerning his oath of allegiance to the king, to forsake the country, and go to England. About the same time, or soon after, Nathan and Wilson Torrey, from Rhode Island, settled in town. Very nearly at the same time, Phineas, Zacheus, Joseph, Michael, and Edmund Watkins, sons of Joseph Watkins, moved here from Hopkinton. About the year 1771, Nathan Fisk, who was among the first settlers, built the first corn mill, and received as a premium for it, from the Government, 100 acres of land. The next year he erected also the first saw-mill, and received, it is said, a premium of 150 acres. Mr. Fisk soon sold to a Mr. Samuel Watkins, and left the town. In the year 1774, Nathaniel Tracy, now the oldest man in town, brother to Rev. Stephen Tracy, the first minister of Partridgefield, from Norwich, and Abner Bixbe, from Framingham, settled here. In the next year, Mr. James Wing, and two families by the name of Frost, settled in town. In 1781 Richard Star, a pious and godly man, came into the town from Groton, Con., and was of great service to the religious interests of the people. As a testimony of respect and grateful remembrance, at the suggestion of the church, a subscription was raised, by which a respectable monument is erected at his grave.

Originally this town belonged to Partridgefield, now Peru, on the east, and Dalton on the west; the inhabitants were connected with these two towns in their religious privileges. In 1795, they were incorporated as a parish by the name of the west parish of Partridgefield; and in 1804, they were incorporated as a town by the name of Hinsdale. In the year first mentioned, the Rev. Theodore Hinsdale, after whom the town was called, came and settled in that part of the town which then belonged to Dalton, and was instrumental, in connection with Dea. Star, in gathering and organizing the Congregational church, which was formed in December of that year, consisting of 23 members, 13 males and 10 females.

After the incorporation of the parish, and the establishment of the church, the people were occasionally, and sometimes statedly supplied with preaching by Mr. Hinsdale, and at other times the Rev. John Leland, then minister of Peru, supplied them a part of the time, and they paid a proportional part of his salary. In October, 1797, measures were adopted for building the present meeting-house, and the next spring the frame was raised. In October, 1799, the house being completed and accepted by the parish, was religiously dedicated to the worship of God. When the building was first undertaken, it was determined to defray the expense by the sale of the pews, and they were accordingly sold at auction, and obligations given by the purchasers for the money. In reliance on this plan, the house was begun and almost completed, when it was found that several purchasers had failed, that others had absconded, and many more become dissatisfied, so that the contractors for the house were unable to meet their engagements, and were obliged to borrow money, and in some instances at an extraordinary interest. Thus embarrassed, they were obliged to abandon the original plan of building by the sale of pews, and negociations were entered into with purchasers to relinquish their pews to the parish. This being done, the parish assumed the whole debt, and voted to assess it upon the parishioners in a direct tax. This measure induced numbers to certificate from the society, and left the burden of a heavy debt on the remaining members. This burden, however, was generally sustained with harmony and patience; and in 1802 the society were so far liberated from debt, that they were encouraged to proceed to the settlement of a minister. In Nov. 1801, the church unanimously invited the Rev. Caleb Knight, a native of Lisbon, Con., and graduate of Williams College 1800, to settle with them in the ministry; and in the following January, the parish unanimously voted a concurrence with the vote of the church, and made provision for his support. On the 28th of the following April, he was ordained.

During the ministry of Mr. Knight, there was no special revival of religion, though there were frequent additions to the church. He lived respected among the

people 14 years, when he was induced by the pecuniary embarrassments, which many ministers experienced during the late war with England, to ask a dismission; which he obtained by a mutual council on the 9th of April, 1816.

After his dismission, he was settled over the Presbyterian church in Franklin, Delaware county, N. Y., from Aug. 20, 1817, until June 25, 1822. He is now settled in the neighbouring town of Washington.

The present pastor, the Rev. William Agur Hawley, was ordained July 16, 1817.

In the latter part of the winter, and the spring of 1818, a revival of religion was experienced pretty generally through the town, which resulted in the addition of about 30 to the Congregational church, and several to the Baptist. In 1821, a second revival was experienced, which brought into the Congregational church about 25. These revivals produced a very visible and important change in the state of society. The reforming influence of religion was spread very generally through the town; many of the most respectable and influential youth were brought into the church and hopefully under the sanctifying power of divine truth. A new impulse was given to charitable exertions for the spread of the gospel. In 1827, there was a third revival, more general and powerful than either of the others, which resulted in the addition of 50 to the Congregational church, and of a few to the Baptist and Methodist. Efforts to spread the gospel have kept pace with the advancement of religion; and societies are systematically patronized for the great object of sending the gospel to the destitute. The number of members belonging to the church on the 1st of January last, was 144.

In 1797, a Baptist church and society were organized, composed of members, living, some in Partridgefield, as this town and Peru were then called, and some in the several towns contiguous. The principal men engaged in the formation of this society and church, were, Eleazer Cady, Joshua Jackson, and Nathan Torrey. Elder Eleazer Smith, who was the first preacher, commenced his labours in 1798. Abraham Jackson, son of Joshua Jackson, was the first person baptized and united with

the church after its establishment. He was subsequently licensed to preach, and in 1809, ordained to the work of the ministry, and is now the settled preacher to this church and society. The present number of the church is 78, of whom 38 live in this town, and the rest in the towns around us. They have a meeting-house, built in 1818.

In the town there are 5 district schools, for the support of which, from 300 to 350 dollars are annually raised. This is expended in the hire of teachers, who are boarded by the people; and wood is also generally provided, without drawing from the public monies. Besides these, a select school is usually kept in the winter, in which higher branches of study are pursued.

There is a pretty valuable and somewhat extensive public library, consisting of books generally well selected. A great portion of the families are proprietors, and the books have a very general circulation.

The Rev. Mr. Hinsdale, of whom mention has been made, and in honor of whom the town was named, was the son of Mr. John Hinsdale, of Berlin, Con. He was born Nov. 25, 1738, O. S.; and in the 20th year of his age admitted a member of Yale College, where he sustained a very respectable standing as a scholar and christian. After he was graduated, he was employed several years in teaching, and at the same time engaged in preparing for the ministry, to which he was ordained in the 29th year of his age, as pastor of a church in Windsor, Con. In a *concio*, delivered at Yale College, he defended ably the divinity of the Scriptures, in an argument from prophecy. After 28 years happily spent with his people, he was induced to consent to a dismission, by a union of his parish with the other Congregational parish in that town. Being somewhat advanced in age, and having a numerous family of sons, he came to this town and settled on a farm. It was still his intention to have continued statedly in the ministry, but in providence a door never seemed to be opened for his re-settlement. He therefore spent his days in the town, occasionally preaching in different places. In town he exerted a very happy influence; was the principal agent in gathering the church, and in establishing religious order. For a number of years he officia-

ted as justice of the peace, and in the various conditions of life maintained a dignity of character and soundness of judgment, which few possess. Mr. Hinsdale was a lover of learning, and though in a measure retired from the active duties of the ministry, kept up an habitual acquaintance with the intelligence appropriately ministerial, associated with his brethren, and was not unfrequently called to sit in ecclesiastical councils. He preserved till death a knowledge of his youthful studies, read the classics with perfect ease, and could quote them readily when occasion called.

He died in the house of his family, suddenly, on the 28th of December, 1818, not having lived a day beyond his usefulness.

Dr. Abel Kittredge, the first physician in this place, is still living. He came here in 1794. His son, Dr. Benjamin Kittredge, is the present practising physician.

Thomas Allen, Esq., a native of Sharon, Con., admitted to the bar in 1799, is the only lawyer who ever resided in Hinsdale.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF WINDSOR.

BY REV. GORDON DORRANCE.

---

THIS township was purchased at Boston by Noah Nash, for £1430, June 2, 1762, and called among the townships purchased at that time, No. 4. When it was incorporated, in 1771, it was called Gageborough, in honor of Gen. Gage, then British governor of Massachusetts. In 1778, at the request of the inhabitants, the General Court gave to it its present name.

At first the township was six miles square; but a considerable tract of land on the northern and western boundaries having been annexed to Cheshire and Dalton, and nearly the same amount added to the eastern section from Plainfield and Cummington, in the county of Hampshire, the present dimensions are about 7 miles by 5. It is bounded by Cheshire and Savoy on the north; by Plainfield and Cummington on the east; by Peru and Hinsdale on the south; and by Dalton on the west.

Joseph Chamberlain and Ephraim Keyes, from Ashford, Con., and Edward Walker from Hadley, were the first inhabitants. John Hall, Jeremiah Cady, and Josiah Lawrence, from Plainfield, Con., were among the early settlers. Though Mr. Hall has many descendants still living here, he soon removed to Castleton, Vt. and was killed by a party of Indians about the time of the capture of Burgoyne. A daughter of Mr. Lawrence, born in May, 1763, was the first child born in this place.

This town has a lofty elevation, and a surface somewhat uneven. The height of land lies in a north and south direction, a little west of the centre; from which the descent is gradual both to the east and west. On the east side rises Westfield river, which takes a south-eastern course; and on the west side the Housatonic, which runs towards the south-west. The origin and sources of these streams are but a few rods from each other, a little south of the Congregational meeting-house. They receive several brooks in their passage through the town.

On the Housatonic, in the south-west part of the town near the line of Dalton, are falls, judged to be about 70 feet. Though the quantity of water is not great, yet it is precipitated down the rock with such violence that it affords a prospect truly sublime. The rock over which it passes is divided near the middle, one part projecting much further than the other. On the projecting rock a flume is placed, which takes sufficient water to carry a saw and grist-mill. In this the water rushes forward with surprising force.

The soil of the town is various, in some places argillaceous, and in the eastern section sandy. In general it is well adapted to grazing and mowing. Winter wheat does not flourish; but most kinds of spring grain are raised in abundance. Very considerable is done at dairying and the raising of sheep. The manufactures are principally domestic. We have 8 saw-mills, 2 grist-mills, 1 shingle mill, 1 bark mill, 1 tannery, 1 tavern, and 2 stores.

The township has not been examined by geologists, and not much is known concerning its internal structure. There are large masses of granite, an abundance of limestone, considerable ledges of soapstone, and some minerals.

The population in 1820 was 1085. We have 147 dwelling-houses, and about 200 rateable polls. Our district schools are 10.

The number of deaths for 34 years, preceding the 1st of January last, was 418, making a fraction over 12 a year on an average. Most of these deaths were occasioned by fevers and consumptions. The croup is not

unfrequent here among children: the dysentery does not often prevail.

For many years the people had but one place of worship; and the greater proportion of the inhabitants are still Congregationalists. The first meeting-house erected was unfortunately burnt, before it was completed. The present brick meeting-house was built in 1823, and dedicated Jan. 7, 1824.

The Congregational church was formed in 1772, and on the 25th of March, 1773, the Rev. David Avery, a native of Groton, Con., and graduate of Yale College 1769, was installed their pastor, having been previously ordained an evangelist. He was dismissed April 14, 1777, that he might accept the office of chaplain in the army of the United States, during the Revolutionary war. He was afterwards settled for a time at Bennington, Vt., and then at Wrentham. In the latter part of his life he moved to Chaplin, a parish in Mansfield, Con., and lived on a farm, but occasionally preached, until his death, which took place while on a journey to Middlebury, Vt., about the autumn of 1819. He was esteemed by the people here, who were extremely unwilling to part with him.

Sometime after his dismission, while the people were in a broken state, and some of the inhabitants were in the army, an unprincipled man by the name of John Elliot, came into town, and by art and management induced the people hastily to settle him. He was dismissed in a few months.

The Rev. Elisha Fish of Upton, graduate of Harvard College 1779, was ordained here June 16, 1785, and dismissed July 5, 1792. He was a gentleman of handsome talents, and very considerable literary attainments. The church, and a portion of the people, were happily united in him. Soon after his dismission, he was settled at Gilsum, N.H. where he died about 1814 or 15. The present pastor, the Rev. Gordon Dorrance, a native of Sterling, Con., and graduate of Dartmouth College 1786, was ordained July 1, 1795.

There have been seasons of gentle refreshing from the presence of the Lord, resembling a dew rather than a great and plentiful shower, ever since the means of grace were enjoyed by this people. There was very

considerable excitement after the dismission of Mr. Avery, and previously to the settlement of Mr. Fish. A goodly number were brought into the church, many of whom appeared to bear fruit unto life eternal. The most interesting season which has ever occurred, probably, was in the autumn of 1822, and the winter following. For a time, especially, there was great solemnity and much deep feeling. Many were pricked in their hearts, and enquired earnestly for the way of salvation by Christ. Nearly 40, as the fruits of it, united with the church; some others indulged hopes. A revival of less extent was realized in the spring and summer of 1827.

The church consisted of 10 members at Mr. Avery's installation; 10 were admitted by him; 29 after his dismission, and prior to the ordination of Mr. Fish; 14 by Mr. Fish, and 199 have been admitted by the present pastor. The number on the 1st Jan. last was 114.

*Deacons.*

John Brown; chosen July 21, 1785.
Zebediah Morse; do. do.
Joshua Phillips; do. April 1, 1800.
John Brown, Jun. do. Nov. 20, 1805.
Isaiah Whitman; do. Sept. 28, 1809.
Elijah Nash; do. Dec. 3, 1812.
Alpheus Brown; do. do.
Thomas Blanchard; chosen Oct. 1, 1818.

A number of families living in the north-east part of this town, remote from the centre, in connection with some families in Savoy, were formed into a poll society, called the First Congregational Society of Savoy, Feb. 18, 1811. They worshipped for a time in a dwelling-house, fitted up for the purpose, on the line between the two towns. As nearly all the present members live in Windsor, their history properly belongs to this place, though they retain their original name.

The church was formed in the autumn of 1811, with 20 members, taken principally from the church in Windsor. Sixty-three have since been added, and on the 1st of Jan. the number was 56.

The Rev. Jephthah Poole, a native of Abington, but immediately from Plainfield, was ordained pastor of this church, Oct. 11, 1811, and dismissed for the want

of support, Feb. 13, 1816. He has since been settled at Brutus and at Ira, N. Y. More recently he has supplied a village in Camillus, called Canton; but is now without a charge.

Since his dismission, the church has been vacant, but has hired preaching a part of the time, and has received some assistance from missionary societies. There have been two revivals here; one in 1819 and the other in 1822. The additions to the church from the former were about 14, and from the latter about 30.

*Deacons.*

Isaiah Whitman; chosen 1812; died April 7, 1827, aged 66.
Cheny Taft; do. moved away.
Nathaniel Latham; do. 1816; do.
Galen Snow; do. 1824.

A library is owned in the society, collected in 1825, containing about 40 volumes.

A Baptist society was incorporated in this town in 1807, and a small church organized about the same time; which was soon dissolved. The members attached themselves to neighbouring churches. The Baptists erected a meeting-house in 1819. Their present church was formed in 1823. Elder Noah Y. Bushnel preached to them some years. Elder Hosea Trumbull preached to them for a season. At present, they have no one to break to them the bread of life.

Members at various times have been added to their communion. The number of members reported at the last meeting of the Baptist Association, was 55.

*Physicians.*

Asahel Wright, Daniel Pierce, and Hezekiah May Wells.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF SAVOY.

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

---

In 1770 or 71, the General Court granted to Col William Bullock of Rehoboth, agent for the heirs of Capt. Samuel Gallop and Company, a township of land six miles square, in consideration of the services and sufferings of said Gallup and company in an expedition into Canada, about the year 1690, in what was called King William's war. It appears that a previous resolve for rewarding them, had not been carried into execution. Col. Bullock was authorized to locate this township in any unappropriated lands then belonging to Massachusetts. Bernardston's grant, comprising the western and greater part of Florida, had been before located. Col. Bullock located his grant to the south-east, and north of Bernardston's grant. The largest portion lies within the limits of Savoy; other portions lie in Florida, Munroe and Clarksburg. The portion in Savoy, with some other lands, was incorporated, with the inhabitants thereon, as a town, Feb. 20, 1797.

In the act of incorporation, the boundary is described as follows, viz. "Beginning in the south-west corner of Hawley [in the county of Franklin,] and running north 18 deg. east 2060 rods to *Cold river*, (so called); thence [westward] on the line of the channel of the said river 1245 rods, to the line of *Bernardston's grant;* thence on said line north 82 deg. west 780 rods to the line of *Adams;* thence on the said line south 10 deg. west 1060 rods, thence north 80 deg. west 240 rods

to the line of *Cheshire*; thence on said line south 3 deg. east 446 rods to a staddle and stones; thence south 47 deg. west 330 rods to the line of *Windsor*; thence south 72 deg. east 1723 rods to the first mentioned boundary.

It is a mountain township, and very considerable portions of it are too broken for cultivation. The best lands are said to be in the east and north parts. The inhabitants are very generally farmers, who raise stock and keep considerable dairies.

The first family settled in this town in Sept. 1777; and within the compass of ten years from that time, 35 families settled in it, viz. the families of Lemuel Hatheway, Daniel Wetherel, William Wilbore, Joseph Williams, Joseph Williams, Jun., William Williams, Thomas Williams, Loved Eddy, and Zechariah Padelford, from Taunton; of John Bourn, Joseph Bishop, Comfort Bates, Abial Dunham, Michael Sweet, and David Matthews, from Attleborough; of Simeon Hodges and Snellem Babbit, from Norton; Peleg Hatheway, Nathan Shearman, and William Reed, from Middleborough; of Peter Bennet and Eliezur Edson, immediately from Pelham, but previously from Middleborough; of William Ingraham from Rehoboth; of Joshua Felt from Easton; of James Nelson from Brimfield; of Nathan Haskins from Shutesbury, previously from Berkley; of Samuel Rogers and William Tolman from Sharon; of William Bowen from Warren, R. I.; of Samuel Read, Shubael Fuller, Azariah Heath, Joseph Putney, a man by the name of Murphy, and another by the name of Hamlin, from some part of Connecticut.

There are now 160 families in the town, and 145 dwelling-houses; 2 stores, 2 taverns, 1 grist-mill and 6 saw-mills, 1 clothier's works, and a triphammer.

The most compact settlement is in the south part, on the road leading from Cheshire and Adams to Plainfield, &c., at the confluence of the two streams which constitute the head waters of Westfield river. This is sometimes called Savoy Village, but more commonly Savoy Hollow.

Public worship was early established. Most of the people are Baptists, though there are some Methodists and some Congregationalists. The present mem-

bers of the Congregational society, called the First Congregational Society of Savoy, live almost wholly within the bounds of Windsor.

The Baptist church was organized June 24, 1787, consisting of 10 members. It had in May last, 101.

The Baptists built their meeting-house, half a mile north of the Hollow, in 1804.

The first minister settled over the church was Elder Nathan Haskins. He was ordained in 1789, and died in 1802, aged 58, having sustained the reputation of a pious and good man. He was a native of Shutesbury.

Elder Philip Pierce, a native of Rehoboth, succeeded Mr. Haskins in 1807, and was dismissed in 1817. He now lives in Dighton.

Elder David Woodbury succeeded Mr. Pierce in March, 1824, and left town in July, 1824. He is a native of Templeton, and now resides in Pomfret, N. Y.

Elder Benjamin F. Remington, the present pastor, was ordained, Feb. 9, 1825.

In the grant to Col. Bullock, it was ordered by the Legislature that three rights should be reserved in the township, containing 380 acres each, for the following uses, viz: one as a donation to the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry forever, and one for the use of schools. The first right was given to Elder Haskins. The right reserved for schools was sold in June, 1821, agreeably to an act of the Legislature passed the preceding February, for $697, leaving after deducting the expense of sale, &c., $655 26; which was divided out to the towns, comprising part of Bullock's grant, in the following manner, viz: to Savoy, $404 98; to Florida, $70 88; to Munroe, $71 14; and to Clarksburg, $108 31. The ministerial right, by an act of the Legislature passed in 1826, was also sold for $1131, leaving after deducting expenses, $1079 39; which was divided out to these towns on the same scale, viz: to Savoy, $667 03; to Florida, $116 75; to Munroe, $117 19; and to Clarksburg, $178 41. The Legislature gave permission that also this might be applied for the use of schools. The school fund, therefore, now belonging to this town is $1071 96. There are 8 schools, and about $264, including the interest on the fund, is annually granted for the instruction of children.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF FLORIDA.

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

---

Some years before the Revolutionary war, the western part of this town was granted to the town of Bernardston, to indemnify that town for a loss which it had sustained by the running of the line between Massachusetts and Vermont, or the New Hampshire Grants, as Vermont was then called. This part was long called Bernardston's Grant. It is 3 miles and 265 rods long from north to south, and 3 miles wide, containing 7350 acres. This, together with a portion of Bullock's grant on its eastern side, and a part of King's grant, constitute the town of Florida. Its length from east to west is various; on an average it may be 4 miles. It was incorporated in 1805, and is bounded on the north by Clarksburg and Munroe; on the east partly by Deerfield river, separating it from Rowe, and partly by an unincorporated tract, called Zoar; on the south by Savoy, and on the west by Adams.

Occupying the height of the Green mountain range, the surface is broken, and the climate severe.

The town began to be settled about 1783. Dr. Daniel Nelson, from Stafford, Con., settled in it in the course of that year; and between that time and 1795, he was joined by Paul Knowlton from Shrewsbury, Sylvanus Clark from Southampton, Nathan Drury, Esq. from Shelburne, Jesse King, Esq. from Deerfield, and Stephen Staples from Adams. Soon after 1795, there was a considerable accession of inhabitants. There are now 80 families and 75 dwelling-houses.

The people derive their support principally from their stock and dairies, and from summer crops. There are no merchant stores in town, no factories, and no mills, excepting 3 saw-mills. There is a post office and a tavern. The road from Williamstown and Adams to Greenfield, although the ascent and descent of the mountain is difficult, passes through the place.

On the subject of religion, the people are divided. Some are Baptists, some are Congregationalists, and a few are Methodists, living mostly on Deerfield river.

A Baptist church was formed in 1810, having about 20 members. The number in May last was 31. The Baptist meeting-house was built in 1824, and the people have preaching a part of the time.

A Congregational church was formed May 4, 1814, consisting of 11 members, 5 males and 6 females. Five have since been added from the world and 2 by letter, and the number on the 1st Jan. in the current year was 15.

The people have heretofore had some assistance from benevolent societies, but recently have enjoyed but little preaching from ministers of their own denomination.

There are 4 district schools in town; beside which a few families on Deerfield river draw their proportion of the public money and expend it among themselves. The people grant from 125 to 150 dollars yearly for schools. They derive also a small sum from the school fund, accruing from the sale of public lots in Bullock's grant.

### *Zoar.*

This is a tract of unincorporated, and taken as a whole, of very mountainous and broken land, lying south-east of Florida, and partly east of Deerfield river, between Florida and the county of Franklin. Samuel Pierce from Woburn first settled on the tract in 1766. Lemuel Roberts, from some part of Vermont, joined him in 1771. About 20 families now live upon it. There was formerly a Free-Will Baptist society; but there is now no constant religious meeting. The inhabitants are attached to various denominations: some attend worship in Charlemont, and some occasionally in Rowe and Florida. A subscription school is occasionally kept.

# A HISTORY

OF THE

# TOWN OF CLARKSBURG.

BY REV. JOHN W. YEOMANS.

---

When Col. William Bullock measured out the grant which bears his name, he was compelled, in order to complete his complement of 23,040 acres, to extend it round Bernardston's grant. He intended to reach to the line of Vermont; but not knowing precisely where it was, and careful not to lose any part of his grant by going into that state, he stopt a mile short of the line, and proceeded westward 4 or 5 miles along the north line of Bernardston's grant and Adams. The part of of Bullock's grant which lies north of this grant and town, and west of Monroe, together with the gore which separates it from Williamstown and Vermont, now constitutes Clarksburg.

The settlement of this tract was begun in 1769 by Capt. Matthew Ketchum, his son Matthew and his cousins Epenetus, Daniel, and Samuel. These came from Long Island. Nicholas Clarke and his brothers Aaron, Stephen and Silas, came in about the same time, from Cumberland, R. I.

The town was incorporated March 2, 1798. The act of Incorporation thus describes its boundaries. "Beginning at the north-east corner of Williamstown, and thence running east on the line between this Commonwealth and the state of Vermont, 7 miles; thence south to the line of Bernardston's Grant about 2 ½ miles, thence west on said line to the east line of Adams," (this distance it is believed is about 2 miles) "thence north on said line to the northeast corner of Adams,"

(about ¼ of a mile) " thence on the north line of Adams to the east line of Williamstown, thence north on said line to the first mentioned boundary. Accordingly Clarksburg is seven miles long from east to west and from 2 ¼ to 2 ½ miles wide from north to south containing 10,400 acres.

It received its name as is supposed from the numerous families of Clarks that settled there. The petitioners desired to have it incorporated by the name of *Hudson*, from a man of that name, who was supposed to have been the first that cut a tree in the town, but who was not known to have continued there more than one or two months. Hudson's brook still bears the name. Why the name inserted in the petition was altered, the petitioners never knew.

The surface of this town is uneven and the soil hard and stony. About two thirds of the town lies on the Hoosic and Bald mountains. The mountain land is cold and rocky. It is well covered with valuable timber, the east part with oak and chesnut, the west with spruce and hemlock. Between the mountains, the soil is good for grazing, affording a suitable proportion of arable land to accommodate the inhabitants, and adapt the farms to the production of dairies and wool. Indian corn, except when occasionally cut off by premature frost, yields a supply for the inhabitants. Wheat in some spots grows tolerably. Rye, oats, potatoes, flax, can be successfully cultivated in every part of the town, except on the steep or rocky parts of the mountains. In common seasons the inhabitants supply themselves with all these articles, and occasionally have some to spare.

Clarksburg produces for the market small quantities of butter, cheese, and wool; but its principal commodity is lumber, considerable spruce and hemlock timber is brought to Adams and Williamstown. There are four saw-mills in the town, which are kept in operation a large part of the year. A corn-mill, with one pair of stones, was built some time before the incorporation of the town, but has long been out of use, and is now in a state of decay.

The north branch of the Hoosic river runs through a part of Clarksburg. Besides this there are two streams,

commonly sufficient for saw-mills, which fall into the north branch within the limits of Adams. One of these is Hudson's brook.

There are now in the town 68 families comprising 408 souls.

Clarksburg is divided into four school districts. The two most populous have schools about 7 months each in a year. In one lying on the east mountain, embracing a few scattered families there has never been a school. The school fund arising from the sale of ministerial and school lands in Bullock's grant, yields an income of about 18 dollars annually.

The Ketchum and Clark families, who first settled in Clarksburg, were Baptists. About 14 years after the first settlement, the inhabitants of the unincorporated lands, in what is now Clarksburg, and Stamford, Vt. united in building a house of worship, nearly on the line of the States. The walls were built of spruce logs peeled, and the bark constituted the roof. It was used in the summer for two or three years.

About the same time there was a revival of religion. Twenty six belonging to Clarksburg joined the Baptist church at Cheshire Four Corners. A preacher was sent among them by the church to which they belonged; but his exceptionable character prevented his usefulness and he was soon discharged.

In 1799 a second revival occurred under the preaching of one Dyer Stark, a Baptist, who came to labor in Stamford. A church was formed of persons belonging to Stamford and Clarksburg, called the first Baptist church of Stamford and Clarksburg. It numbered about sixty members. Those, who united with the church in Cheshire in the first revival, had by this time died or removed from the place. Near the same period a Methodist class was formed in Clarksburg and Stamford, embracing 37 members. In 1809 a Baptist preacher by the name of Paul Himes, who came to live in Stamford, held occasional meetings in Clarksburg, and some religious excitement prevailed. There are now living in Charksburg 12 persons, who belonged to the above mentioned church; and 16 who were members of the Methodist class. There is only one Congregational professor of religion in the town.

There has never been stated and regular preaching in Clarksburgh for any considerable time. The people have sometimes assembled on the sabbath, for prayer and conference, in their central school-house, and occasionally an evening lecture has been attended among them by a neighboring minister. Several families are now in the habit of attending meeting on the sabbath with the different congregations in the north village of Adams.

The principal families have burying places on their own grounds in some of which their neighbors are permitted to bury. The central and most frequented cemetery belongs to the Clarks

## *ERRATA.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Page* 19 | *line* 11 | from bottom, for south-east read south-west. |
| 35 | 4 | The truth is not stated in this paragraph; as the summit level in Washington is several hundred feet less than that north of Hoosic Mt. and less also than that in Becket, according to Rail Road survey. |
| 90 | | Subjoin to the Post Office Table, Boston Cor. post office, established in 1827, Horace Landon, P. M.; and East Sheffield post office, Elijah S. Deming, P. M. |
| 106 | | To Board of Commissioners subjoin the name of Charles Mattoon of Lenox. |
| 119 | | The name of William Goodrich should follow that of Thomas Williams. |
| do. | | For Abraham Nimham read Daniel Nimham. |
| 202 | 8 | For the greater part read a great part. |
| 214 | 8 | For 1584 acres read 15,840 acres. |
| 216 | 13 | For post offices read two post offices. |
| 262 | 10 | For deemed read termed. |
| 264 | | 4th line from bottom, erase *in*. |
| 278 | 17 | For twenty-one acres read twenty-one hundred acres. |
| 301 | 10 | For the place read that place. |
| 333 | 21 | For of 1826 read spring of 1826. |
| 362 | 4 | For William Wells read Marlborough Wells. |
| 363 | 16 | For Lenox read Pittsfield. |
| 367 | 22 | For ought read ought not. |
| 372 | 19 | For are read is. |
| do. | 26 | For 1801 read 1800. |
| 374 | 7 | For March 22, 1775, read Feb. 15, 1775. |
| do. | 8 | For Feb. 15, 1775, read March 22, 1775. |
| 379 | 17 | For 45 read 42. |
| 417 | 2 | from bottom, for from end read from one end. |
| 443 | 15 | For in it read settled in it. |

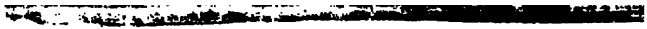
There may be other errors. Should any be discovered which affect the sense and convey wrong information, either by those who have been concerned in writing parts of the History or by others, they will much oblige the Committee by communicating them to him immediately in writing.

In conclusion, the Committee has a word to say concerning himself. The publication has been delayed by circumstances which he could not control. It has been found expedient also to add considerably to it as it has been printing, beyond what was at first contemplated, or even when the preface was printed. When subscribers see the size of the volume, he trusts they will not feel disposed to complain.

# CONTENTS.


| | Page. | | Page. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 422 | Flowering of plants | 189 |
| Aborigines | 14 | Fruits | 87 |
| Academies | 163 | Geology | 190 |
| Alford | 235 | Great Barrington | 222 |
| Amusements | 174 | Hancock | 417 |
| Agricultural Societies | 89 | Hinsdale | 446 |
| Aqueducts | 33 | Horticulture | 89 |
| Becket | 305 | Incorporation of towns | 12 |
| Berkshire Gymnasium | 164 | Insects | 38 |
| do. Med. Institution | 171 | Irrigation | 32 |
| Birds | 37 | Lanesborough | 386 |
| Board of Commissioners | 106 | Latitude and Longitude | 9 |
| Boston Corner | 221 | Lawyers | 109 |
| Boundaries | 10 | Law library | do. |
| Census | 12 | Lee | 350 |
| Character of the people | 174 | Lenox | 336 |
| Cheshire | 392 | Manufactures | 91 |
| Clarksburg | 462 | Members of Congress | 113 |
| Civil actions | 110 | do. Governor's Council | do. |
| Clerks of Jud. Courts | 107 | Meteorology | 185 |
| Climate | 181 | Minerals | 196 |
| County attorneys | 107 | Mineral springs | 197 |
| do. buildings | 101 | Mountains | 16-19 |
| do. societies | 148 | Mountain scenery | 86 |
| do. treasurers | 107 | Mount Washington | 219 |
| Courts | 101 | New Ashford | 395 |
| Dalton | 381 | New Marlborough | 268 |
| Diseases | 179 | Otis | 311 |
| Education | 163 | Paupers | 179 |
| Egremont | 214 | Peru | 443 |
| Elevations | 35 | Plants | 43 |
| Emigrations | 178 | Pittsfield | 362 |
| Executions | 110 | Ponds | 22 |
| Face of the country | 16 | Population, coloured | 178 |
| Fish | 42 | Post offices | 99 |
| Florida | 460 | Printing offices | 113 |

| | Page. | | Page. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Products of cultivation | 86 | Shays insurrection | 124 |
| Proportion of taxes | 13 | Sheffield - - | 201 |
| Rail road - - | 100 | Situation, extent, &c. | 7 |
| Registers of deeds | 108 | Soil - - - | 16 |
| Registers of probate | do. | Stockbridge - - | 239 |
| Religious denominations | 141 | Support of poor - | 179 |
| Reptiles - - - | 41 | Turnpikes - - | 96 |
| Return of spring - | 187 | Tyringham - - | 265 |
| Revivals of religion | 160 | Valleys - - - | 18 |
| Revolutionary war | 114 | Vegetables - - | 43 |
| Richmond - - | 320 | Washington - - | 344 |
| Rivers - - - | 22 | West Stockbridge - | 273 |
| Roads - - - | 93 | Wild animals - - | 36 |
| Sandisfield - - | 298 | Williamstown - | 397 |
| Schools - - | 163 | Williams College - | 164 |
| Senators, State - | 111 | Windsor - - | 452 |
| Settlement - - | 10 | Zoar - - | 461 |
| Settlement of the towns | 12 | | |



3 2044 020 001 434

THE BORROWER WILL BE CHARGED AN OVERDUE FEE IF THIS BOOK IS NOT RETURNED TO THE LIBRARY ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DATE STAMPED BELOW. NON-RECEIPT OF OVERDUE NOTICES DOES NOT EXEMPT THE BORROWER FROM OVERDUE FEES.

Harvard College Widener Library
Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 495-2413

WIDENER
MAY 2001
BOOK DUE
CANCELLED

WIDENER
DEC 0 5 1999
BOOK DUE
CANCELLED

WIDENER
DEC 0 5 1999
BOOK DUE
CANCELLED